Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-197
Friday
13 October 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-197 *13 October 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Proceedings at Al-Ta'if Meetings 1
'Awn Warns Deputies *[Voice of National Resistance]* 1
Phalangist Leader Withdraws *[VOL]* 1
Saddam Envoy Meets Arab League's Klibi 11 Oct *[INA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to Spanish Prime Minister *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
Khalaf Comments on Possibility for Talks *[MENA]* 1
'Abbas Denounces Habash's Anti-'Arafat Remarks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
PFLP's Habash Holds Damascus News Conference *[SANA]* 3
Hurani Says Meeting 'Impossible' Without PLO *[Al-Dammam AL-YAWM 8 Oct]* 4
PNC Member Comments Peace-Seeking Efforts *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 8 Oct]* 4
PLO Employees To Support Bayt Sahur Residents *[Sanaa VOP]* 4
WAFA Editor Criticizes U.S. Vote at UN *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Syrian President Said Ready To Resume Ties *[AL-WAFD 11 Oct]* 6
Somali Embassy Source on Rioters at Consulate *[MENA]* 6
Yugoslav Minister Concludes Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 6
Czechoslovak Trade Minister Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 6
Ends Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 6
Libyans To Release Egyptian Fishing Vessels *[MENA]* 6
Editorial on Shamir's 'Attempts To Exclude' PLO *[AL-AKHBAR 10 Oct]* 6
More on Israeli Rejection *[AL-AHRAM 10 Oct]* 7
Further on Shamir's Stance *[MENA]* 7
Israeli Ambassador Returns From Tel Aviv *[MENA]* 8

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress *[Tripoli TV]* 8

Western Sahara

Communique Reports 190 Moroccans Killed *[APS]* 26
Government Issues Statement on Guelta Zammour *[APS]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly *[KUNA]* 27

PDRY

JANA on Efforts To Restore U.S.-PDRY Relations 27
Party Secretary Returns From GDR, Bulgaria *[Aden Radio]* 27
Supreme People's Council Presidium Meets 11 Oct *[Aden Radio]* 27
Soviet Fishery Industry Union Delegation Visits *[Aden Radio]* 28

Qatar

Amir Confers With Nicaragua's Ortega in Doha *[WAKH]* 28

ISRAEL

Palestinian Problem Called 'Most Threatening' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Arens Doubts Reports About Baker's Impatience *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Arens Says U.S. Willing To Study 'Our Comments' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Shamir Explains Opposition to Various Plans *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Basyuni Discusses Tripartite Meeting, Delegation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Palestinians Comment on Inner Cabinet Vote *[HA'ARETZ 8 Oct]* 31
Detainees Compile List of Names for Delegation *[MA'ARIV 8 Oct]* 31
Majority Favors Change in Territory Situation *[HADASHOT 10 Oct]* 31
Shamir Discusses MiG Landing Controversy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Air Force Appoints Team To Probe MiG Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Radio Cites Syrian 'Lies' About MiG Incident *[Jerusalem International]* 32
Conditions Required for Lebanese Border Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Walesa Accepts Invitation; Delegation Due in Nov *[DAVAR 10 Oct]* 33
Cameroon Delegation Seeking Site for Embassy *[DAVAR 11 Oct]* 33
Investment Declines 2.5 Percent in 2d Quarter *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Oct]* 34
Shekel Value Lowered 0.5 Percent Against Dollar *[THE JERUSALEM POST 11 Oct]* 34
Trade Deficit Declines During First 9 Months *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Oct]* 34
Jobless Rate Declines 6 Percent During Month *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Oct]* 34
Industrialist on Economic Relations With Egypt *[DAVAR 11 Oct]* 35
Court Orders Reopening of Welfare Organization *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Curfews, Violence, Strikes in Territories 35
Bethlehem Phone Links Cut 35
Gaza Strip Strike Ends *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Gaza Clashes Leave 5 Injured *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Oct]* 36
1 Killed by IDF Gunfire *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
IDF Patrol Kills 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Nabulus Curfew Lifted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Arab Youth Killed in Nabulus *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Janin Youth Killed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Cabinet Lifts Import Ban, Reschedules Debts *[AL-RA'Y 11 Oct]* 38
Petra Bank Embezzlement Cases Sent to Court *[Amman Radio]* 38
Ex-Bank Chief Denies Charges *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Article Discusses Jordanian-Palestinian Ties *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Oct]* 38
Damascus-Amman Train Service To Resume 12 Oct *[AL-DUSTUR 8 Oct]* 41
Jordanian-Saudi Joint Committee Ends Work *[Amman TV]* 41
Science-Technology Accord Signed With Japan *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Oct]* 41
King Husayn Holds Talks, Lectures in Canada 41

LEBANON

RFL Reports on Kidnapping of Swiss Woman *[RFL]* 42
Further on Kidnapping *[AFP]* 42
'Official Source' Denies Kidnapping *[VOL]* 42
General 'Awn Interviewed on Al-Ta'if Meetings *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 12 Oct]* 42
Junblatt Criticizes Al-Ta'if Negotiations *[VOM]* 44

'Awn Stresses 'War of Liberation' Continues *[VOL]* 44
Cabinet Meets Under 'Awn To Discuss Developments *[VOL]* 45
Administrative Affairs Meeting Ends *[VOL]* 45
Source Cited on Amendment of 'Withdrawal Clause' *[RFL]* 45
Hizballah on Islamic Resistance Attack on SLA *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Cease-Fire Violations Reported in Mountain Area *[VOL]* 45
Fighting Erupts in Ba'labakk; Casualties Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Palestinian Group Says Fighter Killed in Clash *[VOM]* 46
Israelis Reportedly 'on Maximun Alert' in South *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Resistance Reports Clash With 'Zionist' Force *[VOM]* 46

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Mauritanian Minister, Message *[Damascus TV]* 47
PFLP's Habash Discusses Threats to Intifadah *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Editorial Links Michel 'Awn to 'Zionist Scheme' *[Damascus Radio]* 47

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Captured 'Arabs' Participate in News Conference *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Rebel Leader Rabbani Favors Talks With USSR *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Oct]* 48
GDR's Honecker Sends Message of Support *[BAKHTAR]* 48
Khowst, Nangarhar Military Actions Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 49

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns From 4-Day Visit to Philippines *[Dhaka International]* 49
Commentary Views Relations With Philippines *[Dhaka Radio]* 50
Paper Backs Regional Nuclear Ban, Peace Efforts *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 3 Oct]* 50
Paper Views Role of Muslims in Indian Elections *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 26 Sep]* 51

India

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC's Wu Xueqian 52
Urges Resolution of Border Issue *[AFP]* 52
Stronger Relations Envisioned *[Delhi TV]* 52
Spokesman on Colombo Peace Committee Meeting *[ISI]* 53
Spokesman Denies Diplomat Expelled From Kuwait *[ISI]* 53
New Afghan Ambassador Presents Credentials *[AFP]* 53
Agreement To Open 'Offshore Bank' With Mauritius *[Delhi Radio]* 54
IAEA Safeguards To Apply to French Nuclear Fuel *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Extension of President's Rule Results in Walkout *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Further on Reaction to Extension *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Paper Supports Modernization of Indian Navy *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 3 Oct]* 54
Commentary Hails Launch of Indigenous Submarine *[Delhi International]* 55
Court Verdict on Disputed Shrine To Be Enforced *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

President Appoints Rohani Security Adviser *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Kho'iniha Appointed Head of Research Center *[Tehran TV]* 56
Larijani Views U.S. Aid to Iraq, Saudi 'Dilemma' *[IRNA]* 56
Khamene'i Receives Lebanon's Grand Mufti *[IRNA]* 57
TEHRAN TIMES Discusses Lebanese Solution *[4 Oct]* 57
Dailies Term Al-Ta'if Meeting 'Failure' *[IRNA]* 58
Editorial Urges 'Tougher' UN Line Toward Iraq *[TEHRAN TIMES 7 Oct]* 58
Daily Criticizes Jordan's 'Subservience' to U.S. *[IRNA]* 59
Commentator Assesses Seminar on Afghanistan *[TEHRAN TIMES 4 Oct]* 59
France's Dumas Calls For Bilateral Talks *[IRNA]* 60

Habibi Views Zambian Prime Minister's Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh Interviewed *[RESALAT 23 Sep]* 60
Petrochemical Complex To Be Finished in 2-3 Years *[IRNA]* 63
Japanese Envoy Interviewed on Cooperation *[RESALAT 26 Sep]* 63
Paper Reports on Khalkhali Remarks in Majlis *[KEYHAN HAVAI 4 Oct]* 64
Majlis Deputies Debate Powers, Yazdi's Actions *[TEHRAN TIMES 5 Oct]* 65
* Editorial on Need To Refrain From Placing Blame *[ETTELA'AT 20 Aug]* 66
Finance Minister Explains Economic Policy *[IRNA]* 66
TEHRAN TIMES on Health Ministers Meeting *[5 Oct]* 67

Nepal

King Birendra Departs for State Visit to Denmark *[AFP]* 67

Pakistan

Bhutto on Need for Broad-Based Afghan Government *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Further on Bhutto Comments *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Hopes for 'Amicable Solution' *[AFP]* 68

Sri Lanka

Premadasa To Lift Emergency If Violence Stops *[Delhi Radio]* 69
'Subversives' Set Government Buildings on Fire *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69
Deposits Containing Thorium, Uranium Found *[LANKAPUVATH]* 69

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Proceedings at Al-Ta'if Meetings

'Awn Warns Deputies

NC1310070589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Parliamentary sources in al-Ta'if have emphasized that al-Yarzah commander Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' have sent messages to East Beirut deputies, warning them against endorsing the Arab document.

Phalangist Leader Withdraws

NC1310080089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] An important development took place in al-Ta'if yesterday. REUTER reports that Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah withdrew from a session of negotiations yesterday evening to protest what he termed as increasing Muslim demands. REUTER said that the al-Ta'if agreement is now threatened. Citing Sa'adah aides, REUTER said that the Phalangist leader left the meeting because he rejects new demands which he described as obstructive and unacceptable, and that are closely related to basic and fundamental issues.

Muslim deputies said that the dispute began when they asked for clarification of the timetable for abolition of sectarianism from the Lebanese political system.

Deputies have cited Dr Sa'adah as having said during the meeting: I have borne more than I could. They have also cited drafting committee members as saying that the presentation of new demands threatens involving the parliamentary meeting in unending debates.

Immediately upon Dr Sa'adah's arrival at his quarters in the Palace of Conferences, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and most members of the drafting committee and the deputies followed him there. Dr Sa'adah and 30 deputies held a meeting which cleared the atmosphere.

The Phalangist leader also met with Arab committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Speaking to a number of deputies, Dr Sa'adah said: There should be no voting on the agreed-upon reform clauses without agreement on the sovereignty clause. An agreement must be reached on all the clauses pending the clarifications the Arab Committee will present on guarantees regarding the withdrawals issue.

Last night Dr Sa'adah said: From the beginning we regarded the document as an indivisible whole. Since we agreed at the beginning of the meeting on a working procedure stipulating that the subjects should be presented in the sequence contained in the document, this does not mean that its four clauses are separate. If we do not agree on all the contents of the document, we will not have agreed on anything contained in it.

The Phalangist leader emphasized to AFP that no agreement has been reached among the deputies on the question of Syrian withdrawal. He said that he remains convinced that the tripartite committee's document on Lebanon is an indivisible whole.

Saddam Envoy Meets Arab League's Klibi 11 Oct

JN1110172689 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, Oct 11, INA—President Saddam Husayn's envoy, Mr Arshad al-Zibari, minister of state, delivered here President Husayn's message to Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

The message was delivered during their meeting today in the Arab League headquarters.

Mr al-Zibari delivered yesterday President Husayn's message to the Tunisian, Algerian and Palestinian leaders.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Message to Spanish Prime Minister

JN1210180089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] During a meeting the night before last, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, gave the Spanish ambassador to Tunisia an important message addressed to Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez. Spain is a member of the EC troika of Spain, France, and Ireland. The message deals with the latest developments in the Palestine question, especially the situation in the occupied territories where our people are facing the harshest Zionist campaigns of terrorism and torture. The message also concerns international efforts to find a just solution to the Palestine question based on the restoration of the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, foremost among which are the right of return and the establishment of an independent state.

Khalaf Comments on Possibility for Talks

NC1210171089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Oct (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, has asserted that the Egyptian 10-point proposal has proved useful, for it revealed the intentions of Shamir and the Likud. He said the current Israeli Government is one of indecision, adding that any government that cannot make decisions cannot respond to any initiative or plan. He added that the Shamir government's defiance of peace is stronger than the forces favoring a positive response to the initiative.

Abu-Iyad affirmed the Palestinian leadership's readiness to cooperate and consult with Egypt on the composition of a Palestinian delegation and on any other matter. He added: However, it would offend us if Israel and the United States had any role in deciding who was to make up the delegation.

He explained the PLO's future plans and the Palestinian stand on the U.S. five-point proposal, noting that these points are essentially the same as the Israeli demands.

In an exclusive and comprehensive interview with Samir al-'Ajuz, director of the MENA office in Tunis and North Africa, the Palestinian official commented on the effect of the Lebanese deputies' meeting in al-Ta'if on the Arab position.

He described the October war as one of the Arab nation's most important battles and said it restored self-confidence to the Arabs.

He said the current Israeli Government is one of indecision, adding that any government that cannot make decisions cannot respond to any initiative or plan. He pointed out: We assumed that when the United States insisted that this government make decisions on the question of a settlement, it actually wanted the status quo to continue because it knew that the Israeli Government could not act.

He noted that President Husni Mubarak has taken action in several directions. He met Rabin and traveled to Washington and met with Bush and Baker. President Mubarak, he said, had exerted great efforts but I do not believe that the United States has given him the necessary support. The United States has always tried to distance itself from any situation where there would be give and take, even if this involved Rabin.

On the new 5-point U.S. proposal, Abu-Iyad said: We have not been informed of this proposal officially. Essentially, however, it is no different from the Israeli demands. In my opinion, it is offensive that the composition of the Palestinian delegation should be the subject of consultation between Israel and the United States. We and the Arabs, particularly Egypt, can hold consultations on any matter. However, the United States and Israel have nothing to do with the Palestinian delegation.

Khalaf added: The best type of agenda for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would be an open one, where the Israeli delegation presents Shamir's plan and demands and we submit what we have. There is a Palestinian peace initiative, which we believe is not dead yet. However, as long as the current Israeli Government is in power, its intransigence will obstruct any political move. I am not meddling in Israel's affairs but its government's defiance of peace is stronger than the forces that would give a positive response to the peace initiative.

Abu-Iyad emphasized that the peace strategy endorsed by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Algiers will continue. He said: We have formulated a peace strategy for the sake of our people and for their intifadah in the occupied territory. This strategy can achieve peace in the region, but unfortunately neither Israel nor the United States comprehends the Palestinian peace initiative. He accused the United States of continuing to take Israel's side. The United States has made no contribution; it has not even put the slightest pressure on Israel to proceed with the initial step toward peace, namely the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

On President Husni Mubarak's efforts to promote the peace process in the region, Abu-Iyad said that the Egyptian moves have proved useful because they further revealed Shamir's and the Likud's aggressive intentions. As I have said, none of us expected the Israeli Government to accept any proposal for a Palestinian-Israeli meeting. The advantage of Egypt's move is that it revealed the position of Israel, specifically of the Likud and Shamir, and helped push Shamir into a corner. In my view, there should be a unified Arab stand demanding that the United States give up its position, which is completely aligned to Israel. Therefore, our only course is to increase our struggle through the intifadah and other means so as to force the Israelis to respect world public opinion and all peace appeals and to apply pressure on the United States so that it will exert pressure on the Israelis and not on the Palestinians to make further concessions. What the United States is currently doing is putting more pressure on us to help the coalition government survive.

Abu-Iyad asked: What more can we offer? Are we required to give up the PLO, the right to self-determination, a state, and all our national rights while Israel gives up nothing? He added: I do not believe that any Palestinian leadership will do more for peace than what the PLO has done. He said: The Israeli Government, specifically the Likud bloc, still lives in the past and seeks not regional peace but greater aggression against our people. What happened in Bayt Sahur is a vivid example. No other occupying force ever did what the Israeli occupiers did in Bayt Sahur. They seized the furniture in all homes and sold it at an auction in order to exact taxes. Such a thing never happened anywhere before. There are 4,000 families in Bayt Sahur who no longer possess a single bed.

On Palestinian future plans, Abu-Iyad said that at its next meeting in Baghdad, the Palestinian Central Council will discuss a plan of action to break this deadlock. He noted that a Palestinian delegation will visit Cairo today. He pointed out that the Palestinians are approaching several Arab countries. A Palestinian delegation will visit Aden in the next 2 days and another will visit Cairo after the Central Council meetings.

Asked whether the Central Council meeting will be a prelude to an emergency PNC session, Abu-Iyad said that he does not believe that the situation has reached the point where a PNC meeting is necessary, although certain members have proposed this.

On the recent escalation of Israeli acts of violence, Abu-Iyad said it is clear the Israelis are using a big stick policy to strike at the intifadah. Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron even said that Israel will toast the end of the intifadah as economic factors are exacerbating the people's suffering. Abu-Iyad said: Despite all Israeli measures, I am confident that the intifadah will continue. At the Central Council meeting, we will discuss the intifadah, how to protect it from blows, and how to provide it with funds even from our own resources.

Salah Khalaf called for an Arab and international stand against Israel; otherwise, the Palestinian people will be fighting alone. He said: The challenge is not directed against our people or the PLO but against the Arab and international will. He added: We will discuss all possible means of reducing the Israeli measures against our people and removing Israel's big stick. He noted that Israel, after having closed the political door, has resorted to a big stick policy to drive the Palestinians to despair.

He warned that despair spurs people to greater violence. Referring to the presence of various religious trends in the occupied territories, he said: There is a new party called Hizballah in the occupied territories. Who is responsible for that? He added that Israel's intransigence and the Israeli big stick are responsible.

Regarding the al-Ta'if meetings and the effects of the Lebanese developments on the Palestinian issue and its inclusion in the international agenda, Abu-Iyad said: The dialogue is taking place in al-Ta'if but those behind the dialogue are outside al-Ta'if. If the latter agree, then the al-Ta'if meetings will succeed because there are in fact local and foreign forces fighting each other in Lebanon and, unfortunately, foreign interests have priority over local ones. He added: The meetings are stalled now, but not because the Lebanese do not agree on reforms. They have agreed on reforms, but differ on the question of the Syrian withdrawal. This shows that there is an external factor which is controlling this inter-Lebanese reconciliation. He stressed the importance of exerting all possible efforts to ensure the success of the meetings and warned that the alternative is "partition."

Regarding the development of relations with Syria, Salah Khalaf expressed the hope that the Palestinian delegation's visit to Damascus after the meetings of the Central Council will be the start of a new page in the gradual resumption of relations. He said: We are optimistic this time and hope that our optimism is justified. He added that if Syria relaxes a little in Lebanon and the solution succeeds, then Syria would most certainly devote its attention to a regional settlement.

As to the Soviet Union's stand on current developments in the region, Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinian-Soviet committee will meet soon either in Tunis or Moscow, adding that it will discuss the results of the Shevardnadze-Baker meeting and the Soviet-U.S. committee of experts meetings. He said that there are differences on some points between the Soviets and the Americans on the question of the composition of the Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories. He stressed his desire to continue consultations with the Soviet Union.

Referring to President 'Arafat's meeting with Soviet President Gorbachev in East Germany, Abu-Iyad said that Gorbachev stressed at this meeting the Soviet Union's support for the PLO and the national rights. He added that the Soviets are now working "with what is possible" and have supported the Palestinian-Israeli meeting, while Shevardnadze has called for holding this meeting in Moscow, which shows that there is a development in the Soviet stand.

Explaining why Shevardnadze and U.S. President Bush did not touch on the Middle East crisis in their speeches to the UN General Assembly, he said that there is probably an agreement between them on this because they are holding talks and hence they did not refer to the Palestinian issue. Shevardnadze explained to Faruq Qaddumi in New York why the Middle East was not mentioned by saying that it is the subject of talks with the United States. The two sides agreed not to touch on the Middle East in their speeches, he added.

'Abbas Denounces Habash's Anti-'Arafat Remarks

JN1310061489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, has denounced last Monday's statement by George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in which he criticized PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for his failure to reject President Mubarak's plan and issued a direct threat against the Egyptian president. Abu-Mazin said this issue will be raised during the upcoming PLO Central Council meeting scheduled for Baghdad on 15 October.

PFLP's Habash Holds Damascus News Conference

JN0910181189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus, 9 Oct (SANA)—Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has affirmed that the Palestinian intifadah has managed to do enough that it has awakened the world's conscience from its 40-year sleep.

In a news conference he held here today, Dr Habash condemned all the conspiracies and schemes which aim to abort the heroic and glorious intifadah in the occupied Arab territories. He affirmed that the intifadah started for the sake of the state, freedom, and independence and that ignoring these goals will inevitably be resisted by the Palestinian masses as is happening now.

He clarified that U.S. policy in the Middle East region does not discuss the right to self-determination or establishing the independent Palestinian state, but the political rights.

Dr Habash reiterated the necessity of holding an international conference on the Middle East to give the Palestinian people their rights in light of international legitimacy.

He affirmed the importance of Syrian-Palestinian relations at this political moment in which initiatives to abort the brave Palestinian intifadah are mounting.

He condemned the policy of oppression and starvation practiced by the Zionist authorities against the intifadah heroes who say yes to starvation and submission.

Dr Habash said that the PLO has become obliged to clearly declare its total and complete rejection of the idea of direct negotiations and all suspect alternatives.

Hurani Says Meeting 'Impossible' Without PLO

JN0910173289 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 1

[Ashraf al-'Ashri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] In exclusive statements to AL-YAWM, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has confirmed the impossibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo if Palestinian figures who are members of the PLO were not represented in it. He also said that Israel was informed of this position via the Egyptian diplomacy.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Cairo by the end of the week to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

This week, Cairo is witnessing an intensive diplomatic activity to boost the peace process in the Middle East.

PNC Member Comments Peace-Seeking Efforts

JN0910194089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 16

[Text] Amman—Najib al-Ahmad, director of the Palestinian president's office and member of Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that the PLO Executive Committee is seeking peace in accordance with the PNC's resolutions and international law, which recognizes the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent state within the framework of the resolutions issued by the United Nations and the Security Council on the Palestine question.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Najib al-Ahmad affirmed that the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah in the occupied territories has asserted its absolute support for the Palestinian leadership's move toward peace to achieve the Palestinian national goals.

Al-Ahmad also said that the PLO's current policy has exposed to the world the real Israeli position and the honest Palestinian desire to achieve peace, a fact which has increased the international community's sympathy with the just Palestinian rights. As a result, 100 countries have recognized the state of Palestine.

He added that following this international support for the Palestine question, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was obliged to launch his initiative to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, believing that the PLO would reject it. He tried to convince world public opinion that Israel wants peace and that the Palestinians reject democracy, but the Palestinian leadership has deprived the enemy of this opportunity by announcing its official welcome of the elections under neutral international supervision.

He also said that the PLO agreed on holding the elections on condition that they be part of a comprehensive peace process to solve the Palestinian problem within the framework of the UN resolutions and that a timetable for every step toward peace be drawn up.

Asked about reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has submitted to the United States a list of the Palestinian negotiators, who will start negotiations if Israel agrees to such talks, Al-Ahmad said that the report is baseless and that the PLO will announce its position if Israel rejects the Egyptian president's initiative.

He added that the PLO has not yet announced its official position on Mubarak's 10-point plan which was rejected by Israel and that there is a prior agreement with the U.S. Administration to postpone the declaration of the Palestinian position until the final Israeli position is announced.

PLO Employees To Support Bayt Sahur Residents

JN1210193289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The PLO has decided to cut 3 percent from the salaries of its employees to support the population of steadfast Bayt Sahur against the enemy schemes to impose heavy taxes.

WAFA Editor Criticizes U.S. Vote at UN

NC1110123789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Under the headline, "Who is the Decision-maker?", the political editor of the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA writes: How can the U.S. decision be a captive to the Israeli decision, although we know that any U.S. Administration, (?however weak), can if it wants to, bridle the Israeli decision. During the Suez War of 1956, for instance, when the U.S. Administration figured out that it was in its interest that the war stop and that Israel withdraw to the pre-war borders, it forced Israel, along with Britain and France, to do that without making any effort other than to send a warning.

Sometimes, when a U.S. Administration is weak it miscalculates its interests. Or if its political view is confused, its decisions are so close to Israel's as to be identical or is in line with it and adapts itself to it. How else can we explain the U.S. Administration's insistence that it is right when 140 states consider Israel a terrorist state, while it alone out of the countries of the whole world does not.

This is not the first time the U.S. Administration has done this. But we maintain that in most similar votes in the past, the United States had the other European countries either stand by it or refrain from voting, which strengthened its position despite its unfairness and endorsement of oppression, aggression, and terrorism. The situation now is so clear and different that no one can ignore it. The United States now stands alone in defense of terrorism, killing, and everything that contradicts its declared slogans about freedom and human rights, which, no doubt, include the Palestinian people's right to avoid the daily killing, continual raids, and flagrant aggression on their humanity and dignity.

We are aware that the U.S. public is not informed of the details of their administration's violation of Palestinian human rights. The U.S. public does not know that its administration endorses killing Palestinians and exonerates Israel from any suspicion, massacres, and killing, because it conceals them. Thus we and Arab information media must focus on this disgraceful stand of the U.S. Administration, on disseminating and publishing this stand, and on enabling U.S. citizens to be aware of it. We are confident that when U.S. citizens know this, they will not forgive their administration these positions, which humiliate the intellect, are opposed to democracy, and run counter to the principle of acquiesence to the view of the vast majority.

U.S. citizens understand politics and [words indistinct] political analysis. They, however, are not prepared to enter the dirty game that reaches the point of disgrace and scandal. It is a scandal that the U.S. Administration's decision be dwarfed to the point of becoming the decision of the Israeli arch terrorists such as Shamir, Sharon, and others.

Egypt

Syrian President Said Ready To Resume Ties

JN1210231489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Syria has welcomed President Husni Mubarak's statements on Egypt's stand on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and rejecting the idea that the withdrawal be confined to the Syrian forces only. Informed sources have stated that the Syrian welcome has been communicated to some Egyptian ambassadors in European and Arab capitals. During meetings between Egyptian and Syrian ambassadors, it has been indicated that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is ready to declare the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria and to issue a joint communique in Cairo and Damascus.

The sources said that the Syrian president issued instructions to the Syrian Government and all government bodies on the need to activate Egyptian-Syrian cooperation and to take part in the Cairo International Book Fair and the Cairo International Market in response to Egypt's participation in the Damascus International Fair.

Somali Embassy Source on Rioters at Consulate

NC1110075189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—A responsible source at the Somali Embassy in Cairo said this evening that three Somali nationals arriving from Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Somalia asked the embassy to grant them entry visas to some European countries. When their request was refused because their papers were incomplete, they started riots at the embassy.

The source added that since these nationals do not have residence in Egypt, the foreign embassies decline to give them such visas. Though this was explained to them, they insisted on their demands and staged a sit-in at the consular section. The source added that the embassy asked Egyptian security to remove them for disturbing the peace, noting that the necessary measures are being taken against them.

Yugoslav Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC1210160989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Franc Horvat, Yugoslav minister of foreign trade [title as received], left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 1-week official visit to Egypt during which he held talks with Egyptian officials on ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation and strengthen bilateral trade exchanges. [passage omitted]

Czechoslovak Trade Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1110215089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Trade Jan Sterba arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit to Egypt on his way home from Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The minister said that during his short visit to Egypt he will meet with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, in order to discuss bilateral trade relations and the implementation of the back-to-back deal between the two countries which is worth $130 million. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs

NC1210152189 Cairo MENA in English 0656 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 12 (MENA)—Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Trade Jan Sterba left here early this morning with his accompanying delegation after a one-day visit to Egypt. Sterba arrived here yesterday from Iraq en route to his country. Sterba is due to return here next week among the delegation accompanying the Czechoslovak premier during his coming visit to Cairo.

Libyans To Release Egyptian Fishing Vessels

NC1210072089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2352 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper reports in its Thursday edition that after contacts between Egypt and Libya, the Libyan authorities have taken urgent measures to release two Egyptian fishing vessels they seized in August.

The paper says the vessels and the fishermen will be freed (?today).

Editorial on Shamir's 'Attempts To Exclude' PLO

JN1210151889 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Fact Which Is Denied Only by the Haughty"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir should understand well that all his attempts to exclude the PLO from any negotiations, now or in the future, on a settlement of the Palestine question will reap nothing but utter failure. It is unreasonable that negotiations on any issue should be held in the absence of one of the two major parties.

The PLO is the sole, legitimate representative to talk on behalf of the Palestinian people. This is an undebatable fact whether Shamir likes it or not. It is a fact recognized by the entire world. It is sufficient to recall here that 132 states went to Geneva late last year to listen to PLO

leader Yasir 'Arafat's address after Washington refused him a visa to address the UN General Assembly at its main headquarters in New York. The Israeli prime minister's refusal to admit this fact changes nothing, and he will, in effect, be obliged to accept and admit it if he really wants to reach a solution that restores peace and tranquility.

All the proposals made by Shamir to avoid sitting down face to face with 'Arafat or PLO representatives are only designed to waste time and evade international pressures to settle the Palestinian-Israeli dispute through the peaceful means that are indispensable for the resolution of any international problem. Shamir's assertion that he wants to talk to Palestinians residing in the occupied territories after suspect elections have been held is only the result of barren thinking because all West Bankers and Gazans acknowledge the leadership of the PLO and 'Arafat. It is really incomprehensible that the intifadah—which has been going on now for nearly 2 years—has not convinced Shamir of the futility of the approach he insists on taking.

More on Israeli Rejection

JN1310103489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "What's After the Initial Rejection"]

[Text] As the first sign of objection to the Egyptian endeavor, which met with Palestinian and international acceptance, specifically, the Israeli Inner Cabinet has refused to hold a dialogue with Palestinians in Cairo.

This was a clear rejection, more like a veto, because it was adopted by all Likud members in the Inner Cabinet, who number 6 out of a total of 12. The Inner Cabinet's rules stipulate that rejection prevails if adopted by all ministers representing one party.

In ministerial structure terms, it appears that this rejection deepened the existing division between Likud and Labor regarding the plans and points proposed for the issue. The Labor Party generally supports holding a dialogue as the first step in the mechanism of the joint effort to achieve an acceptable solution to the conflict. However, the talk about the "withdrawal" of the party's ministers from the ruling coalition in view of the Likud's position may be premature. Party confrontations may occur many times inside the Inner Cabinet and this does not necessarily lead to withdrawal.

The Labor Party itself, in the words of its leaders, does not approve of the policy of withdrawing from government whenever differences emerge. From their viewpoint, remaining in government will benefit the party's effective continuity to propagate their views in addition to the possibility of influencing the final decision. On top of all that, they believe positive participation from a position of power will broaden their constituency.

The rejection is still limited anyway. The signs coming out from different capitals, even from Jerusalem, confirm that it is not the last card, and Israeli political decision has fluctuated on other occasions. After all, a margin of rejection is expected from the Likud at any beginning because it cannot accept in front of its electoral base what it has been persistently rejecting for a long period of time. Rejection by inflexible people is something normal for every Israeli's term in office—Golda Meir and Begin, for instance. Still, many things have ended with acceptance after heated rounds of bargaining.

Moreover, it is better to consider this initial rejection as the sign for a stubborn, but not final, position. In addition to continuing its pressure and persuasion through certain capitals, the Arab side must begin to adopt new bases for action that will confirm two things: emphasize the extent of the loss resulting from missing the current opportunity, and hold Israel responsible before the world for the loss of that opportunity if it persists in its position. Additionally, the other alternatives that would give the Palestinian right the same level of attention and acceptance must be highlighted, and there must be an active endeavor to implement them in earnest and without leniency.

Further on Shamir's Stance

NC1310092489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR emphasize in their editorials today that Israel alone is to blame for the current stalemate in the peace process as a result of the Israeli Inner Cabinet's refusal to hold Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo.

AL-AHRAM writes that it is true that the United States has hastened to contain the negative consequences of the Israeli decision when Secretary of State James Baker called for U.S.- Egyptian-Israeli talks on the issue. However, this is not an adequate or decisive way to change the Israeli position and put it back on the right track, so as to revive the peace efforts once again.

The paper adds that Washington could effectively contribute to the peace process by opposing decisively its opposition to all the desperate attempts by Israeli leaders to exclude the PLO from the negotiating table and by informing them frankly that such attempts will be to no avail, because the Palestinian people consider the PLO to be their sole legitimate representative. In addition, the United States itself is holding a dialogue with the PLO, which is recognized by the entire world.

The paper stresses that the Palestinian intifadah proves that the Palestinian people will accept nothing short of a durable and just peace that could guarantee their right to self-determination.

For its part, AL-AKHBAR describes as ridiculous Israeli Defense Minister Yithaq Rabin's threat to step up the

oppressive measures and penalties against the inhabitants of a West Bank village for their refusal to pay taxes.

The paper notes that in any society citizens pay taxes for services provided by the ruling authority. The paper then asks: Does Israel provide these services? The paper then reviews the measures that Israel has undertaken against the Palestinians since the outbreak of the intifadah: preventing the Palestinians from leading their daily normal life; shutting down schools and universities; imposing all kinds of restrictions that aim to starve the Palestinians; and committing acts of murder, destruction, and sabotage. The paper then asks: Should taxes be collected from the victims of these measures for these honorable services?

The paper then refers to Rabin's admission that the Israeli authorities have detained 40,000 Palestinians since the start of the intifadah. The paper concludes by saying that if Rabin's threat to avenge the inhabitants of Bayt Sahur village for their refusal to pay taxes means more jails will be opened, we welcome these jails because life in the territories is not much better than that in the worst detention camp the world has ever heard of.

Israeli Ambassador Returns From Tel Aviv

NC1210223089 Cairo MENA in English 2230 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 12 (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Shim'on Shamir returned here tonight from Tel Aviv.

He left for Israel on Tuesday.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress

LD0810144789 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1024 GMT 7 Oct 89

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, at an emergency session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, dear brothers, good morning. We stand today, 7 October, on the eve of an extraordinary meeting of the General People's Congress to mark, on the one hand, this anniversary [Vengeance Day] and to discuss our affairs on the sidelines of this occasion. Indeed, the October of 1911 was one of the darkest months in the history of this people. We must turn October into a happy month and take revenge against those barbaric Italians who attacked our secure, unaware, and unarmed people on the start of this month and spread corruption, sabotage, and destruction in our Libyan Arab land. [passage omitted]

The expulsion of the Italians on such a day—nearly 20,000 Italian settlers who believed that Libya had become theirs and that their farms in Tripoli, Tarhunah, and Musratah had become the property of their children and their grandchildren—took them by surprise because they had not at all expected the revolution. They received assurances from the defunct royalist regime and from the traitorous Sanusi family, and from all its dirty dogs, henchmen, agents, ministers, directors, ambassadors, deputies, and all those who had served colonialism with devotion and adulation during the agent, rotten, and defunct royalist regime.

They obtained from these corrupt and treacherous cliques, who were devoid of conscience, assurances that they and their children and their children's children would remain on Libyan soil. They laid their filthy hands on property, such as agricultural, industrial, and commercial property as well as political positions. It reached the extent that a number of deputies in the sham and dishonorable Libyan House of Deputies were deputies of the Italian settlers until the day of the outbreak of the revolution. A number of your deputies used to be deputies of the Italians. The election campaigns used to be financed by Italian money and the money of the Italian settlers in Libya.

We used to think that the Libyan deputy was representative of the Libyan people in the time of the royalist government. In fact, he was a deputy of his masters—the Italians. They would close the 1 September Street or any of the main streets on Sundays; they would write notices saying: No entry for Arabs and dogs. [passage omitted]

The Italian settlers' workshops, stores, and houses were taken from Libyans; the workshops, stores, and houses were ours for they were built on our soil. We have taken them back. It does not mean vengeance. We have 4,000 children, mothers, sisters, and fathers who were moved out of their homes to Italy on a black month like this one. [passage omitted]

We say that October 7 is Vengeance Day. But actually revenge has not been taken yet. We only said on this date that the Italian settlers must leave our land. And they have left; they should leave all of their property because that is our property.

This refers to 7 October. But at the same time we are demanding fair compensation for the destruction inflicted on our country as a result of this tyrannical and unjustified colonialism. We will continue to demand it, no matter how far these demands go—even to the point of war. We have a right. We will never forgive Italy for this crime in the history of mankind. It was committed against our peaceful people. It would have been more acceptable if it had been committed against Turkey, because Turkey had an empire. It occupied half of Europe; it was involved in a war with the European and other states. As for the Libyan people, they were not guilty of what the Turks had done. In fact, Libya was a victim of Turkish colonialism. Turkey should also be brought to account because it had handed over Libya in return for Turkish islands in the Aegean Sea. It handed Libya over to Italy in return for Italy relinquishing some

Turkish islands in the Aegean Sea. Turkey is equally called upon to make reparation and to admit its guilt against this nation in the same measure as Italy is being indicted. [passage omitted]

Italy did not withdraw from Libya of its own volition because of the downfall of the fascist regime; not at all. It was forced to leave Libya by the Libyan resistance and by its defeat in World War II. This is an extremely important legal point in the Libyan people's demand for compensation from Italy, since Italian colonialism could have lasted until now. This would have made Italy today responsible for this colonialism because it did not leave of its own volition. When Mussolini was killed, Italy should have withdrawn from Libya and considered that the situation was not right, that it was unjust and imposed on Italy by Mussolini. Then, the present Italy would be absolved from the crime of fascism. But, in reality, Italy had no intention of leaving Libya or of ending its colonization of Libya. The proof is that after the downfall of the fascist regime and the downfall of Mussolini, who was killed and dragged in the streets, Italy still hoped to keep Libya as its colony.

Italy is then responsible for this. Today Italy claims that the 1956 treaty had settled the issue. I read that treaty to you last year on the Day of Vengeance and you saw that the treaty had nothing to do with compensation and that it did not mention the issue of compensation. The treaty stipulated that Italy would give the nascent Libyan Government a half a million dollars in aid—the price of a sheep—and most of that came in the form of Italian goods Libya would buy from Italy. That is all. If Italy considers the 1956 treaty—sorry, the 1956 agreement, it was an agreement not a treaty—as compensation, this means Italy today admits its past responsibility. Since it admitted it was willing to compensate Libya in 1956, it has admitted its responsibility. In this case, we say that this compensation was not sufficient. In other words, the issue is whether the compensation was sufficient. This is a legal dilemma for Italy. But if Italy says the 1956 agreement has nothing to do with compensation, then we are now demanding compensation. This is yet another legal dilemma for Italy.

The Italy of today—and we must speak responsibly—is not hostile to Libya. On the contrary, Italy is Libya's best friend among the European states. The issue of compensation and colonialism has nothing to do with it. We must look at colonialism with its abominable and harsh aspects and look at our historical right to compensation, as I have already said. However, the current political position between Libya and Italy must be treated separately. After the United States imposed itself on its European colonies—in reality the West European countries should be seen as U.S. colonies after World War II because its troops are still in the same positions as they were when they entered that continent during the war—it ordered those colonies to join it in the economic blockade and boycott of Libya because Libya wants the liberation of Palestine, the unity of the Arab nation, and peace and because it opposes colonialism and imperialist expansionism. The United States does not like that because it wants everyone to be obedient and submissive. We have refused that. They dropped bombs on us and we still refused. In the end they said that these people must be either starved or blockaded.

Italy in truth is the only European country that opposed this siege and boycott. Indeed, this was not out of love for the Libyans; rather it came out of the strength of Italian interests in Libya. There are 60 Italian companies still in Libya. Some 60 Italian companies are operating in Libya. These are very strong interests for Italy in Libya. Consequently when Italy stands by Libya in the EEC, it stands in truth by its interests, because it gains billions from Libya. One-third of Libyan imports, I assume you know this, come from Italy. If Libyan imports a total of 1 and ½ billion, this means the ½ billion goes to Italy in return from the Italian goods Libya buys from Italy. Also, one-third of Libyan exports go to Italy. This means the two countries are linked by very strong economic and commercial ties. Italy has a strong interest in this relationship. Hence, Italy opposed the boycott of Libya, the besieging of Libya, because 60 Italian companies will lose. This is leaving aside the fact that tourists are pouring into Italy as though Italy had not slaughtered your kinfolk. You go to Italy, drink Italian products, eat Italian products, dress in Italian clothes, and vacation in Italy. None of you said when you went to Italy that you would visit the grave of your father, grandfather, or mother whom the Italians had transferred [words indistinct]. You find one going to a bar, a taverna. He knows no shame. Why does he not go to visit the grave of his mother, father, or sister, whom the Italians had transferred to Italy when she was 2 years old? [passage omitted]

In general, Italy now, I told you, from the political aspect has a friendly attitude toward Libya because its interests are strong; at least because you go to it, buy from it, vacation in it. Thus, Italy needs the relationship with Libya and is eager to maintain it. The present prime minister of Italy is indeed even a friend of the Arab cause, one of the people [words indistinct]. He does not have the crusaders fanaticism of the Europeans against the Palestinians, Islam, and the Arabs. He supports the Arab cause, the Libyan cause, the Palestinian cause. Those who are in power, in the Socialist Party, in the Christian Socialist Party, are friends of the Arabs and even friends of Libya. We do not deny this. They stood in the face of the United States when Reagan's America was against Libya. They denounced the air raids, the fleets, the military campaigns, and the economic siege against Libya.

This did not lead to a drastic solution. When we use such talk, this does not mean that we are seeking war with Italy or seeking a rupture of relations with Italy. On the contrary, we said it seems the Libyan people and the Italian people are close to each other. There are ancient historic relations, since the Arabs were in Italy for 300 years and the Romans were in North Africa. Perhaps they found us close and colonized us because there were

already links and well-trodden roads. This means there are ties and bridges between the two peoples; sometimes they are used for evil purposes but they should be used for good purposes.

There are bridges linking the two countries across the Mediterranean. We want these bridges to be bridges of good: commerce, tourism, friendship, love, and the evacuation of foreign fleets from the Mediterranean—the Soviet and U.S. fleets. They should leave the Mediterranean and leave it a lake of peace for the countries surrounding it in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Out of our eagerness to see the relationship between Italy and Libya become a natural, good, and historic one, the traces of the hateful past should be eliminated. I regret that the Libyan side is not firm with Italy, I tell you. The Libyan measures in this respect are very clumsy. The General People's Congress should have understood them and conveyed them to the basic people's congresses because you are secretaries of the basic people's congresses, which represent the Libyan people as a whole. In each period the question was raised as to who has the authority to talk to the Italians concerning compensation. Finally, after a lot of hassle, the Italians have delivered to us this year the records of the exiles. They handed over 59 boxes of records and 34 volumes containing the names of the exiled. This was done for the first time. [passage omitted]

How is it that Italian companies, instead of becoming less numerous, are growing in number? Why do we find there are 60 Italian companies? If anyone has any patriotism there would be not even one Italian company or tourist trip to Italy or one sale of anything from Italy. We would not buy anything from Italy; let Libya be the loser; or let Italy be the loser; it is not important; whatever we lose it would not be worse than what we have lost in the past. They took away our folk and slaughtered them like rabbits. Even if we lose money, to hell with money. How can you drink the blood of your own people or wear their Italian clothes, or eat and drink Italian products? [passage omitted]

Anyone of you who wants to forget his mother, father, or grandfather is free to do so. Then it becomes a personal matter and each person would then have to go about demanding vengeance for himself. Maybe I will find some upright men who would side with me whose relatives were killed by Italians and who knows how to take revenge. Anyone who gives up demands for his father's or mother's blood (?let him do so), let him accept this disgrace.

What is the matter? Is it my own issue or what? You Libyan official, for what are you responsible? How can you as officials bring Italian companies over here or have relations with Italy, or buy goods from Italy? Who is importing these goods and who is the exporter? How can this be? Is there no stand by this people? Why do the people who say that they hold power in their hands not ask: Show us why these things come from Italy? Are we not supposed to tighten the grip on Italy or are we giving it a chance?

All right, maybe this is a wise policy I cannot comprehend. You involved Italy and you brought in 60 companies. All right, exploit the opportunity. Now you have involved it in Libyan interests, in trade; you trade with it and export your goods to it. Sixty companies have come to operate here [words indistinct].

This question is to be discussed by the people's congresses. You, the secretaries of the people's congresses, cannot make any decision here but you must refer this to your congresses. While I am saying this I would like that we and Italy reach a peaceful and friendly solution, otherwise in the long run every Libyan might demand vengeance from Italy by himself.

The Mediterranean Sea might become the sea of vengeance, as it was during the era of Khayr al-Din Barbarossa. Italy knows Barbarossa very well. A thousand Libyan Barbarossas might appear in Libya to demand vengeance. [passage omitted]

I did not talk to you on that anniversary, the anniversary of the overthrow of the corrupt monarchist regime which brought the English, the Americans, and the Italians to us; which brought foreign military forces to our territory; and which turned this territory into a base for colonialist forces, as if we had never fought and died to expel foreigners from our country. However, that was a revolution of the people—call it what you like—we were a vanguard of the people. We expressed what was wanted by the people, and that was clear from the first communique of the revolution. It was a revolution of the people against its corrupt government and against the monarchist regime. On that anniversary there was an atmosphere of celebrations and festivities which was not appropriate for talking; we had guests. There is a saying for every situation. The situation last 1 September was not appropriate for what I have to say today. However, now, in a calm environment like this, 7 October, one can talk calmly, not during a festivity in the green or red arena, with people interfering, chanting, clapping, and so on.

What is required after 20 years is a revolution of the people against themselves, as it was said in the famous revolution of 1848 in France and other European countries. Thus was its slogan: The revolution of the people against themselves. What is required after 20 years is a revolution of the people against themselves. Why? Why do we call upon the people, from this 1 September, to carry out a revolution against themselves? Because the people won on 1 September 1969 against a corrupt rule, replaced it, and put in its stead people's congresses and people's committees. Consequently, in the same way that you inherit authority you inherit the corruption that was practiced by the monarchy. When all the people become corrupt and govern, who will solve the problem, who will carry out a revolution against it? There is nobody to

revolt against it other than the people revolting against themselves. However, with regard to myself, under no circumstances will I admit to you at all that once upon a time I ruled this country! Moreover, in no other way will I—what do you call it, direction or advice—I cannot accept responsibility from now on.

All responsibility is that of Libyans, men and women. If someone comes forth and says that you did not enable women to rule; if he says that you left half of society, half the people, outside—we said that men and women should carry people's congress membership cards so that they could practice authority, enter people's committees on an equal basis, enter the courts on an equal basis—men and women judges, men and women officers, men and women members of the people's congress, men and women member of the people's committee. If someone says such and such a tribe, only these should rule, give them cards, all the others no. No, this does not exist. If someone says that the inhabitants of the village, or the city, or the countryside should rule, and no one else; if someone says only yellow but not red people should rule, only white but not black people should rule [words indistinct]. No. As long as authority is in the hands of the people, the people are responsible for corruption.

If you want to say that what I say is not right, I am prepared to go along with you, with whatever you want to say. You may consider it incorrect. But I do not want any citizen to meet me, to give me a piece of paper, in any area of the Jamahiriyah and say to me that an injustice has been committed against him. Or, someone to say there is a mistake in medical treatment, in education, in manufacturing, in agriculture, in social security, in housing, in leaving the country. I do not want anybody at all to open his mouth and say there is a wrong. If you say there is this and that and that, to whom do you say it? To me? I do not govern. You cannot say I have ruled this country from the first day. Go and look at the political, revolutionary, or whatever you want to call it, history and see if I ever wanted to govern. I put forward my resignation from the first day of the revolution.

At the beginning of the revolution, you did not hear my name mentioned. I broadcast the first proclamation and other proclamations, but you did not know it was me because you were not familiar with my voice at the time. I imposed and lifted curfews. I issued orders over the radio to do this and do that. But, none knew it was me who did so, although I read them personally over the radio. I have also issued orders and signed them as Lieutenant Colonel So and So, to organize control over the country. Yet, I did not announce my name over the radio or through any other means and the people did not know me. You did not know me, but I knew you, the people.

This state of affairs lasted 8 days, during which Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir kept sending emissaries to me, as did Numayri and other sincere people, and the Army and officers as well.

All this shows that I resigned from the very first day of the revolution. I did not rule. I only staged the revolution with my colleagues. But as for governing, I told them I did not want to govern. On 8 September, my name was announced, but only after all the men of the Libyan Army signed the order promoting me and approving the announcement of my name over the radio. Indeed, I was pressured into allowing my name to be broadcast. They brought piles of paper signed by all the military in all the units stating that Lt Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been promoted to the rank of colonel against his will, and that he was promoted because he was the commander of the revolution and consequently his name must be broadcast over the radio or the revolution could be stolen. Someone might come and claim to have staged the revolution. [applause]

'Abd-al-Nasir himself pleaded with me, saying he was afraid that someone might steal the revolution, for anyone might come and claim it since neither my name nor that of my colleagues had been announced.

Those members of the Revolution Command Council who committed acts of treason and thus fell and were dropped into the garbage dumps were the ones eager to have their names announced over the radio as members of the Revolution Command Council. This is because they had selfish aspirations. They did not care about the people. All they wanted was to govern and rule like the people we had risen against. Those suffering from this ailment died of it. But the revolutionary members of the Revolution Command Council who continued to adhere to the revolution were not eager to have their names announced, nor did they think of it. All their thoughts were concentrated on safeguarding the revolution and insuring victory for the people. [applause]

You will notice that some months later I submitted my resignation. Go and check when that took place. Then, I submitted my resignation again, on top of the resignations to the Revolution Command Council of which you had not heard. Staying power was not on my agenda. I was there only to stage a revolution. This still holds true and my lack of desire for power prompted the establishment of the people's power. Maybe it is a mistake, maybe not, but this is the truth, and it is still valid. Why? I will tell you. If I rule, no one will rule with me. This is why I do not want to rule. I would have absolute power, and surely be a just dictator like 'Umar al-Khattab [second of the khalifs after Muhammad's death].

I have no political ambitions or desires. Consequently, I would be strong and just, and a dictator, but [word indistinct]. I would be fair. I do not want to be a dictator, fair or not. I do want to rule on my own. Consequently I do not want to rule at all. If I ruled, I would not have a partner to rule with me, just as when the people rule they should do so without a partner. He who tells you that the people take part in power is absolutely silly. The people as a partner!? Are the people a servant, a plowman, a harvester, or a sharecropper? This should not be said. It is a mistake. How can the people share power? The

people have got to own power fully. He who has power has got to own it fully, to be fully responsible for it, or he does not have it. Those rulers of whom you hear, that have around them parliaments, cabinets, [words indistinct]. They want power; they do not want to present anything to the people. If you want to work and do something, you have to be solely in charge of it. I, if I want to implement a revolutionary program, will be a dictator. No one will rule with me. I do not accept any participation because I do not need any participation. I do not want advisers, nor a parliament, nor a council of ministers, nor anyone to help me or support me. I am confident in myself, in my revolutionary capability. I can implement a revolution. I should have a sword in my hand to implement the revolutionary program.

I do not want this. I want the people as an alternative to me. If you take power after me, you step in midway, hold the cane from the middle, and keep complaining. This is a comedy which has no place in the history of a people. Either a people rules fully or does not.

The people are in the image of God. God in the heavens, and the people on earth, with no partner. Had God had a partner, he would have had his own way to the throne. Had he had other gods with him they would have all wanted to be God, and to accede to the throne. He who is on the throne is subjected to attempts to overthrow him. God, thus, has no partner. He has no adviser, no parliaemnt, and no council of ministers. He is fully in charge of his realm. He is the Almighty, and can do what he wants.

The people must be like that, gods over their land. The people alone must rule. People who allow others to deputize for them face the worst destiny. Such people bring deputies to rule on their behalf. How can the people assign deputies and then turn around and stage demonstrations. I criticized the Algerian people. I asked them how they can choose deputies and then turn around and stage demonstrations in the streets.

Some asked that since I am a revolutionary why didn't I stand by the revolutionaries in Algeria, those who set fires, the youth and students? I told them that I would stand by them if they were in the right. But, the fact of the matter is that they chose a chamber of deputies to represent them and, consequently, if they have any complaints they must tell them to the Chamber of Deputies in Algeria. I think they call it the People's Assembly in Algeria, or is it the conference, the People's National Assembly?

Brothers, the Algerian people have freely elected the People's National Assembly. How can they then abandon the Assembly and resort to demonstrations in the streets; attack public transport, cars, and factories; set fires; and shoot and kill. You should go and dissolve the Assembly, say there will no longer be any representaion, and that the people will administer everything directly. There would then be no need for bullets. I am sure Chadli Bendjedid would then tell the people that if they want to rule, then assume power. But, you people choose a president and tell him that he is the president and that he has powers, and you elect a chamber of deputies and transfer your willpower to it saying it should represent you. Thus, the problem lies between the president and the chamber of deputies. The people have no right to stage demonstrations at all. A people who choose an assembly to deputize for them will have no right to speak or write in a newspaper. How can the people write in the press? They should go and complain to their representatives.

This is what the political theory, which is gasping its last breath, produces. The people choose a chamber of deputies to represent them and then turn around and stage demonstrations.

There are demonstrations in every country of the world that has a chamber of deputies. This means the annulment of chambers of deputies. This is an indication that these chambers have failed and the people have bypassed them. [passage omitted]

Since the people are the source of all authority and sovereignty, the people must assume full sovereignty so they will shoulder full responsibility. [passage omitted]

Consequently, don't include me in. I have tried to explain in speeches and lectures the reason why I staged the revolution. This is so you can benefit from it and so that you will try and implement it. If I was governing I would not be prepared to give even one lecture or speech, or make myself hoarse. I have a vocal chord problem as a result of so much talking and speeches. [passage omitted]

A man like me will not allow anyone else to govern with him. If such a man cannot be the only ruler, then he will not govern. Consequently, I prefer to not be a ruler. A man who stages a revolution and thinks about it from the first day, and involves others with him who might die—some have died and they still are dying—there is no doubt that either he governs single-handedly or not all. If someone staged a revolution for the people then the people should govern. My sole concern the last 20 years has been that the Libyan people should become the rulers and rule in place of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Revolution Command Council.

My colleagues, if you want to seek the help of one of your brothers, the revolutionaries, fine, do so. Or if you prefer to seek the help of your revolutionary committees, popular committees, or your organizations or anything else, that is well and good. As for me, in truth I can no longer, as of today, shoulder your work, or do anything that I do not feel happy about. Today, I believe there is corruption for which you are responsible. You have deviated so much. It is a great people's deviation. If it had been done by a government it would have been overthrown. Or a coup would have been staged against it. But, when the people are the government, the master, and the ruler, and they deviate, no one can stage a coup

against the people. There is only one thing for it. The people can make things right by applying what the Green Book says.

You have two choices: Either the Libyan people can stage a revolution against themselvs or the Libyan people at the basic people's congresses tomorrow can declare that everything is going according to their wants and desires. In that case you will not need anyone, either me or my colleagues.

Brothers, if we were talking about a festivity, a party, or a reception, the matter would be simple. But to talk about the future of a people whose numbers are growing every year—yesterday you numbered 2 million, while today you number 4 million, and tomorrow who knows how many million you will number—is not an easy and simple matter, and, consequently, you should not treat it lightly.

Sweets, cakes, Pepsi Cola, cars, motorcycles, toys, and games cannot at all build the future of a people. This is not the way of a people who think of their chidlren, grandchildren, and their land and who want to avoid a repetition of the black 26 October 1911 tragedy. This is not at all the way for a people to build their destiny.

The people resort to demonstrations, such as in Algeria and other countries where demonstrations were staged and the streets were set on fire. The people can avoid catastrophes by themselves.

You use the oil money to buy consumer goods, and squander the money on the same day, as is the case with respect to this paper I am holding. You have paid hard currency, oil money, for this paper. Where has this state of affairs led us? You could have sold the oil and used the money to plant a tree, which in turn becomes 5 trees and later 10 trees. Such is the rational policy, at least on the level of the family. One could think of one's children. How much is your salary that you squander it on trips to Italy and Turkey and on the purchase of useless goods, and then sit waiting for next month's salary? How can you be sure that there will be a salary next month?

I have repeatedly warned you not to rely on salaries. Salaries depend on oil which can cease at any time. The years have passed and now you see in what state the income from oil and oil prices are. You used to export 3 million, but now you export less than 1 million. Did I not warn you about this in the past before it actually happened? Go back to my statements and review them.

I say this because I am not ruling, for if I was ruling, I would not need to say it. If we need to shut down oil wells, we would shut them down, and if we needed to suspend salaries, we would suspend them. Then the people would feel hungry and begin to till the land. By doing so, you become dictators, and you would suppress demonstrations if they were staged. For the suppression of demonstrations in such a case would become a very sweet thing. This is because you would then be administering a program serving the good of the future of the people who are demonstrating. You would be building the future of the people who are staging the demonstrations, while they are unaware of where their future lies. Strike them, for then you cannot be blamed. This is because you would be ruling. When I personally rule, my rule will be just, absolute dictatorship, leading to heaven in chains; not on a road strewn with silk, but with knives. Thus, you would walk to heaven over the thorns. Those who refuse to walk would be decapitated.

Then when the people oppose you, you suppress them and open fire on them. This would be a good and excellent thing and you would be right to do so.

But, to seek power and rule while doing nothing for the good of the people, and then strike at them when they stage demonstrations, would not be right. Those running chambers of deputies and assuming ministerial posts achieve nothing for the people. All they want is to rule. Those who rule cannot share responsibility with anyone else.

I support anyone who declares himself an absolute dictator, because he will be serving the people and shouldering all responsibillity for his actions by himself. He executes, kills, or achieves success. But, he would be fully responsible for that. Such a man would be a proper man.

But, if you are unable to rule, a resort to camouflage by calling for a chamber of deputies, a council of ministers, advisers; consultants from abroad, consultants from within, from the World Bank and IMF, and so on, is wrong. Let the people rule. Abolish this facade and let the people rule.

All I want is to see the people rule. I do not want to rule.

The bygone era established police. Was it to preserve order so that everything goes well? Police existed to put people in prison. These trivial matters and serious issues cannot meet. I told you that if I was in power, I would not want you to submit your papers to me. I know everybody's problems and staged a revolution because I am aware of people's problems. I would make radical solutions. Even if you do not appreciate them today, you would agree with them tomorrow. I would come to destroy your home today, and you would cry, but tomorrow you will find it a plantation; palm trees, olive trees, barley, wheat. You would say: Thank God, Mu'ammar has come and destroyed my house. Had I not stayed without a plantation, what would I eat? The wall?

If I stayed in power, I would take a bulldozer and destroy all the buildings you have built during the last 20 years over agricultural lands. I would start with Suq al-Jum'a. I would raze it. And Tajurah—not a single house would be spared. I would plant palm trees, and he who would cut a palm tree down would be forced to plant another one. It would not be for me to eat from it. Neither me nor my children. It is for him and his children, for his benefit. Should he say no, I would cut his throat so that his children will live. [passage omitted]

When you built those houses on the coast, you uprooted the palm trees. Where can the palm tree grow? We cannot grow it anywhere else. Can it grow in the Bir al-Judayriyyah south of Diyafah? No, it cannot grow there. Can it grow in Gharyan? No it cannot. It can only if you water it. How can the people destroy their own future? If I was governing I would know that a tragedy had taken place. Without consulting anyone I would take a tractor and demolish all those buildings on top of the people who built them; this so that the next generation can survive. [passage omitted]

In Italian books Tripoli was called the oasis. They did not call it a town, they said the oasis, the oasis of Tripoli; we have occupied the oasis. The al-Chatt battle and al-Hani battle. Where did they take place? Around the palm trees. They advanced across the palm trees. The Al-Hani (?quarter) and al-Chatt street have all been covered with palm trees. How did they win the battle of al-Hani on the 23d of this black month? The Italians took heavy losses. The area was full of palm trees. They advanced through the palm trees.

If you have palm trees, camels, goats, and wheat, then you can say to hell with America. If you have none of these things then you are slaves. With each passing day you underline your slavery. You engrave it and stress that you have no future because you destroyed your palm trees and olive trees. Thus you have no future. (?It is spent) on that number of Mercedes cars. If tomorrow Libyans have no money, who is going to buy them from you? You will be stuck with them because they will not be buying them as they have no money. How can a poor nation buy Mercedes cars? Go on selling Mercedes. Instead of building a farm, someone brings specifications. You have even changed your language. You say catalogue or catalogues; you bring these to show your friends and colleagues, to see which one you like best, this or that one. Today you have oil. Tomorrow, if there is a crisis, you will not be able to buy even a donkey. [passage omitted]

When shops opened and you started to become merchants you very quickly forged your certificates. Mas'ud called himself Sa'd so he could obtain a license. What is this? I know all this. If I was in power I would cut off his hand and give it to the cats to feed on in Tripoli, Banghazi, or anywhere else. It is because I know who you are. Who are you kidding? You think you are deceiving us. Are we stupid? I am not in power, but I know the owners of the shops. They are the same owners of the previous shops. I also know that all the shop signs are false. Instead of opening workshops and farms, and building for the future so that you would be independent, you hastened to open shops which you fill with goods from Europe.

What exactly is a shop? It consists of walls which are empty. You fill it with goods. From where are the goods coming? Have you made them yourselves or have your children made them? No. It is the Italians and others. Go and see these shops. They are full of Italian goods.

Consequently, don't put the blame on me, as I have not been ruling, not even for a day. The first years were years of entrenching the revolution. We have been busy building colleges, roads, houses, and other things.

The Palestinian people are not applauding IRA operations in the heart of London. Why? Because they say this army is satisfying their own thirst for revenge by fighting Britain, which handed them over to Zionism in 1948. This is comparable to a Palestinian army fighting Britain on its own ground. They are supporting it and share their arms and their bread with it. Let Britain or the United States call it terrorism. Is there a greater terrorism than that of the Israelis and Americans against peoples, with their fleets, aircraft, economy, and intelligence? Of whom is the world afraid nowadays? Of fleets, Zionism, and imperialism. It is not afraid of the Palestinian people or the poor divided Irish who are fighting for their freedom.

Consequently, I am interested in the world platform. It is for the defense of Libya, in the last resort, and the defense of the cause of freedom, of which we are at the center and that is the center of the battle for it. Do not say it has nothing to do with Libya. On the contrary, this is a defense of Libya. If the Islamic nation declared jihad, 1 million Muslims would fight with Libya, instead of it fighting on its own. One million Muslims would fight with the Palestinian people, instead of them fighting on their own.

Now, there are no leaders in the Islamic world, a total collapse. We will have to save it. The cause of the world revolution? Even the Soviet Union abandoned the cause of world revolution. The revolution of the Soviet Union, perestroyka, is internal now, at home. It is trying to reconstruct the Soviet Union. It no longer has any relationship with the revolution in Mozambique or Trinidad. It does not care anymore. It only takes care of itself. It left us, all these small peoples who are against imperialism, to face their fate. These small peoples will unite and form an international platform, a world people's front to fight imperialism. This is another concern. The other issue is Arab unity.

If you say that your house caught fire and you did not get compensation, and another one says that his son is crippled and Dr So and So did not allow him to go abroad, and, at the same time, you think about the unity of Iraq and Syria, and that of Iraq and Libya—this does not come together.

I tell you that the secretaries of the people's committees should not be disturbed by citizens because they have no relations with the citizen. Go and see the employee, not the secretary of the committee. The secretary of the committee and his committee are in charge of employees. They are seen by employees. As for you, go and see the employee. I went to see the secretary of the people's committee and I waited in vain for 2 hours to see him; is that people's power? Of course it is people's power. The secretary of the people's committee is busy

implementing your decisions. He is in charge of the employees. You meet with him during the accounting at the basic people's congress, citizens line up in front of the office of the secretary of the people's committee. What do you want from him? [passage omitted]

Do not lay on my shoulders the responsibility of having ruled at any time in Libya. The early years were the years of consolidating the revolution. We built colleges, roads, quarters, bridges, etc. We were consolidating the base. We also faced plots, plots from within the Revolution Command Council. The rotten and dishonest ones committed treason within the council. They proved to be dogs when earlier they were considered heroes. Only the true ones remained. That period cannot be considered ruling. In 1977 the authority of the people was established. I acted then as a guide, just like Hasan al-Banna, the guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. I should have sat in the mosque and offered guidance.

Since authority is now vested in you, you are responsible for it. As for me, I have neither ruled in the past nor want to rule now. I do not want to tell you what to do about your present situation. Either you say that everything is proceeding well and that your future is guaranteed despite the corruption, the importation, the cutting down of plam trees, the running after dollars, the brokerage, and the selling of your honor... [sentence incomplete as heard] What state of affairs is this when a woman comes to an employee to serve her as her right to be served, but he bargains with her over her honor? How can you say there is no corruption? This is the apex of corruption.

I sometimes look into files. I pay sudden visits and ask for daily incidents files. I see a great deal of scandal in these files. A woman sought to exchange some money, or was it obtain a passport, but she was asked to pay with her honor. You are her servants; how can you ask for such a thing? If you do not want to serve her, leave your job and go work elsewhere, such as in agriculture. You are free. But do not say that you were serving the people. The employee's duty is to be the servant of the people who pay him his salary. How can you, the employee, bargain on the people's honor? You are corrupt. Can there be worse corruption than this? If a government were responsible for such a state of affairs, we would stage a coup against it in broad daylight.

The people and the people's committees are responsible for this. These committees are responsible before the people's conferences. Thus, it is the duty of the people to rectify their corruption. You are offering bribes to each other. It is not a government that is taking bribes or offering bribes to the sons of the people, as was the case in the days before the revolution. [passage omitted]

I cannot condone such corruption. I cannot accept it, but not because I want to rule. I do not accept it even when I have no relation with you, either from near or far. My relation is with the world platform, with the new provisional Islamic command, with Arab unity, with the revolution of stones, and with the Palestinian cause. If the Americans want to strike at me or bomb me, or the Jews want to assassinate me, and they have shelled me from aircraft before, I do not care. Whatever God has decreed will happen. But I have no relation with you at all, either from near or from far.

The Tunisian people, the Algerian people, the Egyptian people, the Sudanese people, the Maltese people, and all your neighbors must hear that the Libyan people are the ones that rule themselves by themselves through the people's conferences and people's committees without proxy and deputization and without partnership from any other side. All the laws assert the authority of the Libyan people. [passage omitted]

You are responsible for any internal or external shortcoming. The oil belongs to you and whether you make a gain or a loss of it is a matter that concerns you. You are responsible for bringing 60 Italian companies. It was not me who brought them. If matters rested with me, I would have placed Italy on the black list from the very first day. This is because Italy killed my forefathers and kinsmen. This is at least from a family point of view. It has also hit me with a mine in my hand. You, however, have not suffered anything. God saved you from Italian colonialism. You were saved from the thorns, but we walked on the thorns. You brought the 60 Italian companies.

The Libyan people must stage a revolution against themselves if they feel there is corruption as I feel and see. The first signs of corruption were the cutting down of palm trees and turning the agricultural lands and palm groves into building sites. The Italians, brothers, started this when they felt their end was nigh and thus sought to sabotage Libya. They began to cut the olive trees. When the revolution was staged, the Italians were in the process of parceling the land.

And here is the Gharghur quarter, or someone called Gharghur—an imposter—from outside. If he is a Palestinian he better go and fight the Israelis and not come here to destroy our country. All these were olive groves. Gharghur came and turned them into villas and put them up for rent. Why? It is because Gharghur is not interested in Libya's well-being. But you, a Libyan, chop down all the palm trees at Suq al-Jum'ah, Tajurah, Janzur, Misratah and then you come and say that you are true patriots. The worst thing colonialism can do is to burn the land, the policy of scorched earth. This is the worst thing the colonialists can do—or cut down palm trees, an abomination. When someone commits an abominable act he should be punished. The Libyans did it in Burdai. They occupied Burdai and burned down the palm trees. They were tried by a military court and were executed. The palm trees belonged to a Muslim people. The palm tree is a plant which must not be destroyed even if it belongs to nonbelievers. Those palm trees belonged to our neighbors.

How could you cut down with your own hands the palm trees and olive trees, and destroy the agricultural land of

which you don't have much. You destroy it and turn it into a building site and build shops on it, car showrooms, and warehouses for building bricks, cement, and the goods you have imported. How are you going to live in the future? With oil? There will be no oil. If I were the ruler, the first thing I would do is exploit oil. I would sell it and put the money from the oil in a money box. I would put it in strong safes and lock it up for 5 or 10 years to see how you live without oil. I would then see what your future will be. You will not eat this wall of bricks. You will ask where the palm trees you cut down and replaced with a shop have gone. Your shop will be populated by mice because you will not be able to import goods from Europe. You became corrupt; you changed your language; you call the recording machine video. You call the tape video, the television, the radio, the telephone. You changed your style of clothing, clothing that suits the heat and cold of your country. You changed it and brought the clothes of Scandinavia, which suit the North Pole where the night is 6 months and the day is 5 minutes, and are for people who live in temperatures below zero. You imported their cars.

Why did God not create camels in Sweden instead of creating them here? The pigs—the revolution broke out and pigs are still here. We have pig sties. Pig meat is forbidden in hot countries. Why has God forbidden pork? Because it is harmful in hot countries.

You began to breed pigs. You saw Europe breeding pigs and so you followed suit here. You have changed everything. Even your clothes have changed and your voices have changed, and so did you language and your lifestyle. Your buildings are not Libyan but Polish. They were built by a Polish company with the specifications of Polish houses.

The air-conditioning equipment is suitable for Europe but not for you. You are supposed to erect buildings which do not require air-conditioning equipment and which are cheap. If I were in power, I would have decreed that houses should not cost more than 5,000 dinars. Indeed, I insist that the price of a house should be 5,000 whether I am ruling or not. Houses are the most important thing for this country. How can houses cost 30,000 and 40,000? We cannot pay such prices. The maximum price of a house should not exceed 5,000. [passage omitted]

Instead of cutting palm trees, sell their [not further identified] fruits to Europe. Europe has no palm trees. The palm trees are a source of hard currency. The palm trees are exactly like oil. [passage omitted]

Imperialism has succeeded in changing peoples—their cultures, their manners, and their temperaments. It trained us based on its own traditions and customs so that we may become tools for it.

They introduced you to the dollar. By God, what do you know about the dollar? Why should there not be another currency? We told you that you can resort to barter. You want rice, you pay for it in wheat. This is a revolutionary decision. If I were to rule you, I swear to you that nobody would be able to bring food from abroad until he produces equal amounts of food within Libya. Go ahead and stage demonstrations against me. You are welcome to do so.

What would they say in demonstration? Would they say this one is a delinquant? He is corrupt? He stole money and gave it to his family? They would not say this. They would say: He asked them to produce from their land, and they staged demonstrations against him. He would face them [words indistinct]. Then I would face them and say: Smash them, because they do not know their interest. Those who remain will repent and know their own interest. I will not rule by stealing funds, treating people contemptuously, until they stage demonstrations against me, and whereby I resort to using tanks against them. Tanks were used by Stalin who transformed the Soviet Union from an agricultural state into an industrial one. He massacred 5 million. That is a fact. This is a great action, because those 5 million were an obstacle for the Soviet Union. They prevented it from being a state that produces missiles. Had there not been Stalin, the Soviet Union would have been a U.S. colony now. Had Stalin not massacred 5 million, all the millions of the Soviet Union would now be under U.S. control. These 5 million were a sacrifice for the sake of the other millions.

When I kill the head of a family, I do it so that his family can live. Why did you cut the palm trees of your family? Is it because you have a salary today? [passage omitted] This land belongs to us all. It is not your right to transform palm trees into buildings. It is not to our benefit. We did not allow you to transform your plantation into a building. If you are not able to look after it, we are. This is an evil doing. What should we do to it? Laws are against it. We told you that wages should be canceled and that people should live by doing something else.

We called for family self-sufficiency. Every family, if it is to grow wheat, should grow enough for a year. As for towns, we have said that everyone should acquire a plantation around them for self-sufficiency, so that you do not buy vegetables or eggs or meat or anything else from the market—1-2 hectares in which you grow wheat or barley, and you and your family live on. Is this good or evil? Is this action good for the future or not?

If someone comes and tells you to open shops, cut trees, feel free to build whatever you want, to transform sites into warehouses and garages, and to feel free to buy things from abroad, you applaud him. This would be the Devil, who deceived Adam and his wife and forced them out of paradise.

He tells you exactly that. Buy sweets, consume, drink Pepsi Cola. You are Muslims and yet you drink Pepsi Cola, which is prohibited because it is made of pig liver. The powder you brought you called Kawthar. It is a shame to call Pepsi Cola powder Kawthar. God in his holy book said: We have given you the Kawthar. Nobody

knows what it is. Is it a well or is it paradise? You buy pig liver and call it Kawthar. Tomorrow, after 500 or 1000 years, your sons will ask: What is the Kawthar mentioned in the Koran and they will think this is the Kawthar. They will then abandon prayers and fasting. You call it Kawthar. It is a disgrace that you give such holy names to drinks made out of the pig liver. Pepsi means pig liver. It is not the entire pig liver, but only a part of it that they ground and place in the powder. Otherwise, why do you import Pepsi from abroad? I dare anyone to make Pepsi in Libya. [passage omitted]

You cannot buy the powder from abroad and then mix it with water and call it Kawthar. I have never had Pepsi Cola, the pig's liver. Nor did I drink Bitter Soda, because it contains intoxicating substances. You do not expect anyone among you to not have had Pepsi Cola. But I swear by God, I never drank Pepsi Cola. I once tasted it by mistake, but then I threw it away.

When it first appeared in 1959 and entered Libya, it was written on it that it was made from pig liver. Since that day, I have never had Pepsi Cola. I have commitment and willpower and I couple my words with deeds.

This does not serve your future. If someone tells you to import Pepsi Cola, and import this and that, pay no attention to him. He tells you the whole world eats pork, so what if there is pig liver in Pepsi Cola—you applaud him. [passage omitted]

They have pigs and you are supposed to have goats. They have chocolate and you have palm trees, dates. Continue your destruction; cut down palm trees; open shops; import goods from abroad. Say this is a cooperative society when it belongs to some exploiter and say that man is called Hamad when his name is Mas'ud; carry on falsifying. Who are you kidding with your falsifications? I am the one who ridicules you. It is because I know the whole truth. I have given the warning; I am quite satisfied. I warned you; I exposed myself to danger and I exposed my family to danger for your sake. I know the truth. As for you, you can sit back and laugh and clap and write songs about the Al-Fatih because these songs are good. They make the future.

There should be equality among you. I do not accept one house which is small and another big. You should be equal. Who are you, Libyan, who lives in a palace while another lives in an ordinary house. It must not be. This is a jamahiriyah, a socialist system. Wealth is divided among the people equally. It should be divided equally. It should be done from the beginning. If you have built a large house you should pay us its price by paying us dues.

You don't pay the telephone bill and don't pay the house tax. If I take from you in order to put it in my own pocket you should object. But, as it is, in order for you to realize equality it is your own property and livelihood. We told you the supply is according to demand. If we need milk, we bring milk. You don't bring milk and something else. We did not ask you to bring anything else except milk. We need milk, therefore you bring milk. We need water; bring water. Who told you to bring mineral water, gaseous water, or colored water? [passage omitted]

By God, one of the delegates who came here told me: Brother, what is the Geneva Lake which the tourists visit compared to the Benghazi Lake which lies between Tibisti and [word indistinct] and which we provided with hotels? True! Why do we go to Geneva? This is because our will has been usurped by imperialism which told us that they were better and that the imperialists were masters while you are slaves, you are misfits, you ar rubbish, and you are Arabs. We believed them. They told us that the Geneva Lake was better than the Benghazi Lake and we believed them. But the truth is that the Benghazi Lake is a thousand times better than the Geneva Lake. [applause]

Wealth should be divided equally among the people. Where will this materialist rivalry lead you? You follow the European countries and breed pigs under our hot sun. This cannot be! They eat the pigs liver and you bought the pigs liver as Pepsi Cola and called it Kawthar. Everyone rushes to the doctors asking to be treated abroad. Why, brother? Why treatment abroad? Then let us shut down the hospitals and send away the doctors and base the budget on treatment abroad. How much is the annual health budget? Two hundred fifty-seven million dinars. Well then, close down all the hospitals, surgeries, and clinics and use the 257 million dinars for treatment abroad.

Treatment abroad should be decided by the doctor himself freely. I entered the Tripoli Central Hospital but they could not find me the necessary treatment. The doctors thereupon decided that I should be sent to the Nalut hospital. Nalut hospital treated me and then said: We have failed and you should be sent to the Tobruk hospital. The hospital itself decided that I should go to the Tobruk hospital. They did not mention me as patient so-and-so, the son of so-and-so who belongs to the so-and-so tribe, but as patient No 10. That is the number on my dossier. For what has my family and tribe to do with the matter?

The Tobruk hospital, which was the last hospital I entered, said there would be hope for recovery if the patient was sent to Sweden for stay at the so-and-so clinic. The hospital itself decided to send patient No 10 abroad. Why do you disgrace yourselves and loose self-respect and be indebted to this man or that for having treatment abroad? The doctor is the one who decides whether you need treatment abroad or not. How can you know whether your ailment is serious or not? [passage omitted]

When you were needy, you used to work on the roads until sunset. You say "by God we are needy and poor." How can you be needy? Let me tell you about an incident which utterly astounded me last month. We went to the Al-Mhili [agricultural] project to distribute housing to the farmers. I asked them: How did the distribution go? They replied: Honestly it was according to the law—to

the largest families, the families with the lowest incomes, the needy, the farmers, and the dedicated people—all according to the law. Fine, I said. Now I would like 'Abd al-Majid, Muhammad Farkash, or Muhammad al-Hiyazi [officials in the General People's Congress] to explain to me the following matter.

I have not told anybody about it but I prefer to say it to the entire Libyan people. So, I went to inspect a number of houses. I arrived at a house with a tent pitched near it. I asked: Who owns this tent? Somebody said: This family. I asked them: What are you doing here? They replied: We are keeping an eye on this new villa, this new house which belongs to this farmer. The farmer who you said was poor and deserved this house was hiring another Libyan family to keep an eye on his house. How can you say that this was done according to the law, that this man was poor? And how can he possibly deserve a house? Anyway, I went over to another house and I found some sheep near it and also a Sudanese man. I asked him: What are you doing here? He said: I am looking after these sheep. Whose are they I asked? He replied: So-and-so. Who is he? I asked again. He said: The owner of this hou : you have just handed over to him. How much does he pay you? I asked. He replied: I get 160 dinars per month. What is his occupation? I asked. He said: He works for the government on a project, I do not know exactly.

So if you say that this man is poor and you give him a house and he is, at the same time, employing a slave, he is using an employee and pays him 160 dinars per month. How can he deserve a house? How do you expect him to start a farm and stay in Al-Mkhili? I swear he will not stay. The family which is keeping an eye on the house must have that house. If someone already has a house he should stay in it. He does not deserve the other one. The one who has sheep must stop at that. He does not need to have a farm and he must give up his other job. Umar [presumably addressing Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary general of the General People's Committee] I have already told you that opportunities must be given to the Libyans. If there is unity with Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt or any other state, the number one priority in your interest—you take it from me as your guide—is to distribute opportunities among yourselves.

To you the Libyans present now that if there are 500,000 Libyan families they should take 500,000 job opportunities in Libya and you leave the rest to the (other) Arabs. If they increase, so much the better. Let us suppose we have 50,000 trucks; they must be driven by 50,000 Libyans. If there are only 30,000 Libyans, we train 20,000 more Libyans to enable them to drive the remaining trucks. If there is another opportunity to let the Arabs take it, good. If road construction requires 100,000 workers, 100,000 Libyans must be specialized in road construction and they will be remunerated according to their work on the road so the money will not go to a foreign company. If there is more to so, someone can take it. When we say that about 500,000 Libyan familes, and that every one of them has had a job opportunity and on top of that there are 500,000 more job opportunities, then give them to your Arab brothers. At that stage there is no objection. If there are 100,000 Libyan farmers, give each one of them a farm. Ask them: Is that enough? They will say: Yes it is enough. If on top of that there are 50,000 more farms, let the other Arabs come and take them. You must distribute the opportunities quickly, otherwise you will face a catastrophe. I am bringing down the borders with the Arabs and I will soon have unity with Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and Sudan. Even the Maltese have this possibility. I gave them this possibility a long time ago and I have been pressing them. I ask the people in charge and the People's Committee: Please implement the following advice.

The Maltese has a right to live and work in Libya. A Maltese has a right to have a house, a farm, and a job exactly like any Libyan. Maltese should be allowed to enter Libya without a passport. Likewise, a Libyan has a right to live in Malta, get married in Malta, have a house and a farm in Malta; he should be allowed to spend summer holidays in Malta. What is important is that the Maltese and Libyan should live in this way, because Malta has relations with the Arabs; Malta has interests regarding the Arabs, Malta should not represent a thorn for us. This is a strategic factor, which we might hate now, but it is in our interest. If aircraft take off from Malta to attack us, then you would say that you wished we have given Malta these concessions so that it would not have allowed these planes to attack us.

Job opportunities should be distributed immediately among the Libyans; any Libyan who would not seek a job opportunity should be reprimanded immediately. One cannot just sit with one's hands in one's pocket until the end of the month, then receive a salary while the job is being performed by Italian or Czech workers. No Italian should be allowed to come to this country as a tourist or otherwise particularly during this black month. This is a black month in your history, this month of October when your families suffered a great deal at the hands of the Italians. It is a shame to visit Italy during this month; one should respect the souls of one's ancestors during this month, so that Italy will be aware that they have been unjust toward these people.

I am informing all the Islamic world, through the temporary Islamic leadership we established in Banghazi, that 26 October is a day of mourning; prayers for the souls of the Libyan exiles should be performed throughout the Islamic world. [passage omitted]

I have asked the question: What do the Libyans want? You did not even know how to respond to this question. This means that you have nothing at all, although you sound as if you control everything, just name it and everything will be ready. If I go to a country, which should remain a secret and ask them what they would want, they may tell me that they would like a new president of the Republic, or bread, or 24,000 kms of roads immediately. Or they would say we want our freedom, we want the prisoners released, we would like

to take control of power, we would like to be free to go anywhere without any questions asked. There are some people who do not have these things. They might say that they would like foreign military bases evacuated from their soil. If I go to the Philippines and ask its people, they would immediately say that they want the United States out of the country.

There is no colonialism here, no monarchy; you have the power; there is no party that governs you; multipartyism does not exist so that you would complain about the chaos engendered by this sort of system; there is nobody who interferes in running your farms; you issue laws; you are masters; you have democracy. You spent more than a month wondering how to answer the question I asked you. [passage omitted]

The second point: In the past months some individuals came and said we saw a group of people whom we suspected. The one who approaches them, they open fire at him. Where? They said south of Ijdabyah. They have a car, they dug a hole, the one who passes by or searches or [words indistinct], they open fire on him. We said how come? Did the enemy land Americans or Israelis who are patrolling (in a strategic region) to seek information? Some security men went to them and said peace be upon you, and they hardly finished saying this, when fire was opened on them and they were killed. Another group came and encircled them. They exchanged fire. Some died and the remaining ones were arrested. Who are they? They said we are Muslims, from the al- D'Awah Wal, al-Jihad, al-Takfir Wal Hijrah and the Tabligh groups. From where? They said Libyans. How did you come about? They said some came from Pakistan, some from Afghanistan, one from India. We learned these things from them.

What about the two holes that you dug? They said we decided that Ijdabyah is irreligious and considered its people unfaithful and that the whole society is unfaithful. We left it and we want to conquer Ijdabyah from the outside—to attack it with this Toyoto. What for? They said we want to kill them. How can you kill innocent people? They said no, those people are infidels. The more we kill from them, we will enter paradise. These extremist Islamic groups will enter paradise on a bridge of dead infidels. The bigger the number of people you kill, the bigger your bridge to paradise. How come all the people of IJdabyah are infidels? They said yes they are. Who else? They said we have another group in Misuratah, who believe that its people are infidels and they want to do the same thing. And a group in Banghazi believes that the people of Banghazi are unfaithful and we are all agreed, God willing, to exit Banghazi, Misuratah, and Ijdabiyah and attack them from outside, kill people and occupy mosques. And kill ordinary people in the street? They said yes, in the street, because this is an infidel, heretical society.

Takfir Wal Hijrah means that we hold society to be infidel and we deserted it in order to conquer it from the outside. Who told you this? They said shaykh so and so, shaykh so and so, shaykh so and so From where are those shaykhs? They said from the so and so books. We saw the books they read. They are very old books. Ibn-Taymiyah, dervishes books, the combat of woman and the combat of the liberation of women. They mixed things. They said this [word indistinct] the Libyan society.

Who is with you? They said there are people like us in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Syria. They said they are similar groups scattered around, our number is not big, but we want to hold society infidel. You fight the Israelis? They said no, we do not fight the Israelis, they are people of the book. Do you fight the Americans? They said no, they are the people of the book. Who then do you fight? They said we fight you. You the infidels, the people of Syria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. You are all infidels. Who put this in your minds? They said so and so.

We found that people came from the outside, some were at Libyan embassies abroad, some were in these Arab countries and they learned this from the Islamic countries of Asia. For your information, the movement of atheism in history came in the same way. The atheists entered the Arab countries and began turning Muslims into infidels. We must distinguish between two things: There is Islam, and there are other movements which claim to be Islamic. The so-called Islamic Tendency are people with whom I had a dialogue, people who are now in the provisional international Islamic leadership. They are reasonable people. I debated with many of them from all over the Islamic world and the Arab homeland. Of course, some of them are under death and prison sentences in their countries by their governments, some were in prison, but they are not ones to take to assassinations, explosions, the poisoning of wells, killing in the darkness, or leaving a city and then attacking it with a Toyota and saying those people are infidels.

I debated with the followers of the Islamic Tendency in Tunisia. I debated with Abdelfattah Moro, who was exiled in Saudi Arabia and I found him a reasonable man, and I intervened with my brother Zine El Abidine and I told him this is an excellent man: Why should he not return to Tunisia? I guarantee him. He returned to Tunisia and he is there. They day before yesterday they said he made a leaflet. Well it is an open leaflet, not a secret thing. It is not explosives. This is a point of view. Ghannouchi was sentenced by Bourguiba to death. He was released. I say him [corrects himself] he is a good man. He said we do not believe in explosives and assassinations. Every now and then they mistreat us. They put us in prison. We are against imperialism, against zionism, and the same call you made when the revolution took place we apply. They are reasonable men and found it strange that one called himself Takfir Wal Hijrah, another Tabligh, and another D'awah Wal Johad, and hold others infidels. We want the return of authenticity—the revolution of authenticity, the revolution of the desert. Even the Europeans talk about the

revolution of the desert; that is purity and cleanliness from the evils which had come from the West and Europe.

I have met the followers of the Islamic Tendency in Syria who were Muslim brothers. What was the name of the former shaykh? Ammar? No not 'Attar, his deputy. Sorry? Yes Zuhayr, Shaykh Zuhayr. He was banned from entering Syria and he was considered 'Attar's deputy. I asked him: What is this killing you carried out in Syria? Why don't you do it in the Golan? He replied: These were people we washed our hands of and they were misguided youths. Now we have reached an agreement and I have met with President Hafiz al-Asad. I have come to you now and I would like us to reach an understanding. As far as the question of weapons is concerned, if there are any weapons we will use them against Israel, the United States, and against the enemy of the Arab and Muslim nation and not against one another or anything of the sort. It will be done openly.

I found them reasonable people. I even met Sa'id Ramadhan, who was sentenced to be expelled and deprived of his Egyptian nationality by Nasir. He was not, however, involved in a story of explosives, assassinations, and clandestine operations. I also met 'Abd al-Karim Muti from Morocco, who is banned from entering Morocco, as he is seen as a threat. But this man has a reasonable Islamic tendency, not like the ideas put forward by al-Takfir or al-Hijra. He does not support assassinations and killings. In other words, he is a reasonable man who has a program which might not be incompatible with the present regime in Morocco. Maybe they have only failed to reach an understanding.

From Sudan, Jordan, and other Arab countries, I have seen people from the Islamic Tendency—even those who are banned from their countries—but they are reasonable people and they have their own viewpoint. As far as clandestine operations are concerned, there are none. They pledged to me that they will not resort to clandestine operations and acts of sabotage. They also washed their hands of the groups which call themselves al Da'wa, al-Jihad, al-Takfir, al-Hijra. I am certain that these originate outside the Arab nation, with a view to destroying pan-Arabism. They are established by people who are not Arabs. They were recruited by foreign intelligence services and were told to enter the Arab nation in the name of these Islamic calls. This is exactly what happened in the past when they invaded the Islamic world with the free thinking and the introduction of the veil. What was it called during the era of al-Mansur [one of the Abassid caliphs]? It was the movement for the introduction of the veil and so on. All were movements underpinning free thinking. This is a new form of free thinking. We cannot call it Muslim Brothers or Islamic Tendency. Of course, there is a group of four or five Libyans who are Muslim Brothers. They are known to you. These people work for the U.S. intelligence and they have nothing to do with Islam or anything else. The U.S. intelligence wants to bring them to power because it is against the revolution in Libya. In any case, they will not reach power nor will the United States. Neither of them will. They are only wasting their time.

Imagine, after we questioned these people they said that the U.S. raid encouraged us to work, and they said that one morning came and we knocked down the prisons and released people from prison, that also encouraged us to work.

Imagine, how can soneone say that the U.S. raid on our sons encouraged him. Instead of changing everything he has, fight against American, and enter our homes and fight, he said the U.S. raid encouraged us to work against you! Is this a Muslim? Is this what Islam is? Someone who says that I was encouraged after you released the prisoners, pardoned the people, and knocked down the prisons? That meant there are no more prisons, there is nothing. Thus, I can kill, assassinate, work. These are people who still exist until now, they have been arrested and still exist.

From another angle, had I been an ordinary citizen and a theocratic government were set up in this country, I would be the first to leave it if I were unable to resist. What is theocratic rule, in the language of books? Theocratic rule is political-religious rule. It means that the political official would also have a religious capacity, as with the Ottoman caliph and with some Arab countries now. The most dangerous type of rule is the theocratic one, the political-religious one. This is because such an official would be under the illusion that he is God's shadow on earth, that opposition to him, criticism of him, that to tell him he is wrong, is not possible. He could erect a rod that passes over your house [words indistinct], and you would not be able to tell him he is wrong, God forgive me, a religious ruler making a mistake? God's shadow on earth, the caliph of the messenger of God! This is what made the Turks slaughter convoys of revolutionaries in Arab and non-Arab countries. It is because they said: This is wrong! Why wrong? You are a ruler and you make mistakes. He said: No. I rule according to the will of God. I am the Caliph, the Caliph of the Muslims. Until now, people's necks are being cut with swords because they said no. How can you say no to the ruler of our Lord?

There is no ruler of our Lord, brothers! The prophets were sent by God, but after the prophets, everything was headed by a president of a republic. There you are! Nothing! Even the so-called caliphs, the prophet had no successor and no deputy! He is not a president of a republic to have a deputy. The religious question ended with the prophet. That was it. [passage indistinct] After that, we choose Abu Bakr, 'Umar, 'Ali, 'Uthman as president of a republic, then let it be! Consequently, fighting began, parties and creeds began. All the creeds that arose after that were in the service of politics. God did mention the maliks, hanbalis, hanafis, the (?badis), the khawarij, the shiites or the sunnis. These, all these, do not exist in the Koran. None of them exist in Islam.

These are political parties. They do not have any religious or sacred capacity. If people like that get to power, what would become of you? Imagine if people who have decided that you are infidels were able to control the country, what would become of us, the servants of God? If they now leave Musratah, Banghazi, and Ijdabyah and attack you from outside with bullets, Kalashnikovs, and Toyotas. They will kill the greatest number in the streets so that they could go to heaven. If they became rulers and formed a council of ministers or a presidency, what (?would become of you)? First of all, for them a woman is taboo, deficient, and that is it! All institutes, schools, universities, and the whole world would begin to close to women. Any woman who goes to the street with her head uncovered, or if she goes out onto the street at all, would be killed as an infidel. The shedding of her blood would be permitted.

Once the ruler becomes religious, it would be impossible for you to debate with him. This is because anything he does he would claim to be in the name of God. That is it, he would say, what I had done is in the name of the religion! Destroy this house! How can you tell them to destroy my house? That is it! This is the rule of our Lord! That is theocratic rule: Once someone rules you in the name of religion, your lives would become hell. Any country that is ruled by someone in the name of religion has had it. It would mean that the people would all be putting their necks out to be chopped off. All of them! That is how the Ottoman caliph behaved. Go and see the slaughter houses of Jamal Pasha in the Sham [Damascus]. In every part of the Islamic world where the Turks ruled in the name of Islam they ruled in a theocratic way. That means the ruler had a religious capacity.

A ruler should not have a religious capacity. If you want to remove him you should be able to do so at any time. He makes a mistake, then be it. We choose one who is an engineer, an agricultural expert, a lawyer, and so on. If he is no good, then he is no good. It should not be so that you would say: No. This one has come in the name of God, and is sitting on you.

They have distributed themselves as amirs. Imagine, they want to take us back to the time of amirs. This is the amir of Banghazi, that is the amir of Ijdabyah, and another is the amir of Siluk and yet another is amir of [name indistinct]. To be an amir means amir of the Muslims and the faithful who rules according to the will of God. He executes, imprisons, and is the arbiter between people as he wishes. Furthermore, they claim that we are infidels. This phenomenon [word indistinct] and has never been experienced in any Arab country. We are here upholding the Koran as the constitution for our country and could legislate anything against it. It is the people's authority which is the sacred authority and it is in the hands of the people. The things which do not have the consent of the worshippers of God have no sanctity. [Words indistinct] the people discharge their affairs over their land as they please without anybody coercing them neither in the name of this nor in the name of that. People are to be left to their conscience and their religion. Religion is present in everybody's heart.

Furthermore, this poses a danger to Arab nationalism. If all Arabs must be slaughtered, and we must be ruled by foreigners [a'ajim] and by non-Arab countries with the permission and training the Israeli intelligence, and U.S. and Western intelligence—all of whom are involved in this criminal act, letting some rabid dogs loose in the Arab streets to murder anyone with machineguns so as to enter heaven—this is more serious and more dangerous than cancer and AIDS, even more than war with the Israelis or the Americans.

If anyone of us is to change so far as to pick up a Kalashnikov and take to the streets of our cities to kill people in order to enter heaven, this of course will serve the Israelis and the Americans and the enemy. He would turn into the most dangerous epidemic, more serious than the plague, smallpox, and any other disease which threatens and kills people.

This cannot be allowed to be harmful in this way, and we cannot let it be so everytime we discover a group. An end should be put to this. First of all, religious rule—we cannot allow anyone to rule in the name of religion. We understand religion; everyone of us is a Muslim—no one is a prophet to come and teach us religion. If Muhammad is sent once again, or if Jesus descends and says I will teach you religion, then we may listen to him. Anything else, what is permitted by God and what is prohibited is clear. Good is known from bad. Religion is complete, the Koran is present in our hands, and we will not hear any other word. Any novelty or addition to the literal text of the Koran is heresy. Heresy is wrong, and the wrongdoer will go to hell. If someone comes to me and tells me that Ramadan is not 30 but 40 days, as one of these groups says—al Tabligh wa al-Hijrah, they said fasting should be for 45 days—this is heresy, blasphemy. First, these are anti-Arab people; they are prompted by nations that are against the Arab motherland. Second, they pervert Islam in a clear way. It is a movement of religious hypocrisy [ar zandaqah] to destroy Islam and to change its way of worship which has been agreed upon by people; the five pillars, prayers, hajj—they want to change all this. That means that to defend the religion it is necessary to eliminate this religious hypocrisy.

They pronounced me an infidel. They said: By God, Mu'ammar is an infidel, and the Libyan people are infidels. Infidel? I have led the imams into prayer. What would they say tomorrow? I lead millions of people into prayer in Africa, and I lead thousands into prayer in Libya! Imagine, they say he is an infidel, how can we pray behind him? Who said that? These people said he [Al-Qadhdhafi] is an infidel. How can you pray [words indistinct]? These people have absolutely no conscience. They have not even been brought up at all; they are insane! [Words indistinct] I must go and see all the people with whom I have prayed, for tomorrow the religious hypocrites will tell them this person [Al-Qadhdahfi] is an infidel. This person who prays with us

is an infidel? Who said so? Al-Takfir wa al-Hijra--what do you call it—Al-Tabligh [wa Al-Hijrah] said so!

Alright, what about the Libyans who prayed behind me in the Green Arena? What becomes of their prayers? And those who prayed behind me in the mosques, what becomes of their prayers now that they have pronounced me an infidel? Why an infidel? Can I not also pronounce them infidels and say that these are sons of bitches and religious hypocrites, idiots? They read the books of Qotbzadah! This Qotbzadah is not even an Arab, this person who was executed by 'Abd al-Nasir. When Israel was conspiring against 'Abd al-Nasir, Qotbzadah was conspiring against 'Abd al-Nasir from inside, he was in agreement with Mossad, the Israeli intelligence. What sort of religion is this? This is hypocrisy!

The United States was striking at us with bombs from above, and they were saying from underground that they were encouraged! Is this Islam? Bring it out on the screen, show these groups with whom I had prayed on the screen. Tomorrow they would become infidels! Tomorrow people will see me and say: So this person is an infidel! The Libyan people are infidels, and here we are praying behind him! I cannot allow this against myself, I cannot allow someone to pronounce me an infidel while I am an imam to people—a corrupt and zindiq person who had stolen a Kalashnikov and is imposing himself with it in a mosque or wherever.

What sort of Islam is this, while the Arab motherland is facing the crusaders, imperialism, and Zionism? They want to fight us in Ijadabyah and Musratah in the middle of the streets! We would like to see them on the screen. It should have been arranged earlier. Why is Dr Muftah, the secretary of the congress, getting up from his seat? Stay in your seat doctor, there are people who carry out such tasks [referring to slides that are supposed to be displayed on the screen].

My intention is to distinguish between religious hypocrisy and the Islamic tendency. The latter represents the tendencies, the figures and the movements which I have met and from which I formed the World Islamic Leadership. These people have a program and they have a democratic procedure. The religious hypocrisy must be exposed and this concerns the group which we have arrested. These people are hypocrites. They alter the society's legislation, which is the Koran. Come on, give us one of the slides. Not your own photo, we want a slide showing a prayer. Fine. [passage omitted] These are the highest imams and I am leading their prayers. How can a Libyan religious hypocrit dare say I am a heretic? If I were a heretic I would not put up with them. I would necessarily fight them. By God I got involved and I became imam of the imams and I lead the prayers for them. I still do it. What is this nonsense and lack of education! Whoever has one, a Libyan religious hypocrite, must educate him because he will be totally crushed in the end. [applause]

Here are Shiites; here are people from the Shia, and they are not even Sunnis. [Words indistinct] sit, sit in your seat. [laughter] This is either from Iran, from the Shia possibly, here he is praying behind me. (?Is this blasphemy)? By God, this is good, one who leads the Shia, the Sunna and all the dogmas in prayers. Hold it together, with your hands, without nails. Enough. Without nails [words indistinct].

We led Islamic groups and imams from all nationalities in prayers. They said: Blasphemer. How can they say blasphemer? Enough, enough, finish, finish. These are examples. Islamic masses in Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, Burundi ,—I led them and their imam in prayers and they seek blessing from us. The Arab is an imam for the Muslims wherever he goes. How can a sinner come and say by God they are blasphemers? How can you claim that I am a blasphemer? What is your proof? Those people's fate, I tell you, is liquidation because they are not a political movement or one who has a theory or one who is democratic or one who deals with you through reason. Those are mad dogs, people who if they get hold of an AK-47 will go into the streets and open fire at you, people who have changed worship. They broke their teeth and the one who does not break his teeth is not a Muslim, and the one who does not wear tight clipped pants, Jews pants, is not a Muslim. They said all those dead are wrong and unlawful. Why? They said your burial is wrong. All your dead, in their opinion, will go to hell. Why? Because they were buried the wrong way. They have a way of burial: The grave is [word indistinct] a hundred times. When people were buried they came and took them out and said: No, wrong, and they waged battles at graveyards and said this way of burying is wrong and all those who were buried before them are going to hell because they were buried the wrong way. Your way of praying is wrong because you have to open your legs wide and should have tight cut off pants, broken teeth, and wearing a white Jewish cap.

This is religious hypocrisy itself, you understand? This is the way I myself describe it. First of all, a religious form of government cannot be established unless it is done by the people. With a Christian people a Christian form of government will be established. With a Muslim people, they themselves establish a Muslim form of government. With a Jewish people, they establish a Jewish form of government. But that someone appoints himself amir or a caliph and we will fight him as we cannot possibly surrender our necks again to any caliph after many of us were victims of the sword of the unjust caliph to whom God gave no mandate. God never said that there should be a caliph. Why can the Turkish king, the Turkish ruler become the prophet's successor? We have people like Waid al-Din, 'Abd al-Majid, 'Abd al-Hamid; these were agents of imperialism and yet they were the prophet's successors. Wahid al-Din who sold his country, Istanbul; he sold it to the allies only so that he could remain caliph. He indulged in his pleasures inside his palaces and surrendered the capital of his country, Istanbul, to the allies. This was supposed to be the prophet's successor.

Nobody was more corrupt than he and there was not a worse agent than he. He was the penultimate caliph. This was the prophet's successor. The butcher Jamal Pacha is acting as a caliph in Syria.

Are we still in the era of the caliphs after the advent of the era of the masses? The streets are full of masses, from France to Bangladesh, and they are offering victims in order to take power and they tread on everything in their way. You want us to return to the amir and the caliph? This cannot happen and even if you wanted it you cannot achieve it because it is now the era of the masses. People do not accept even the assemblies which represent them, let alone a caliph.

Is Islam a curse or what? If we are Muslims it does not mean that we must give our necks to a caliph. Who has talked about this caliph? God did not tell even the prophet that he could reign over us.

I tell you the question must be put forward to the People's Congresses and a law must be issued against religious hypocrisy so that such movements are considered a form of religious hypocrisy which destroys Islam, which is against the Arab nation, and which poses a serious threat to the Arab and Muslim societies and to Islam. Anyone who embraces such religious hypocrisy must be outlawed. Every Libyan family must understand that if it is told their son has joined such a movement and has stayed in it, bad luck; it is as if they have told them he has cancer. It is like when the doctor examines your son and tells you, I am sorry we have discovered that he has cancer in the third or fourth stage, not the first stage. Cancer in the first stage is normal and people can recover from it. But if cancer, or tuberculosis, has been there for a long time without you realizing it and then it is discovered, that's it. Or somebody is told, God forbid, that he has got AIDS. If you are told that a member of your family was found in this movement it is as if you have been told that he has AIDS, and that's it. He is finished. You cannot possibly plead on his behalf. His is a religious hypocrite and he must be crushed. The movement of religious hypocrisy cannot be allowed to revive in the heart of the Arab and Muslim nation. It is impossible. People who have ideas and who are reasonable have come out and we talked with them and reached an understanding with them. There are those who are in the dark, who destroy and who commit blasphemy; this is religious hypocrisy and it must be crushed.

The people who have been arrested and convicted are now in the streets fighting with cars. [as heard] There can never be any understanding with them. Even the law does not apply with them. They do not benefit from any law because they do not let the law decide. They use the power of the Kalashnikov instead. They have been arrested only to be interrogated about the fact but they should have been killed while they were running because they themselves run and kill.

God will be victorious. If you did not raise him properly and you left him, and he was of weak character, he did not know God properly, and he was a drug addict; and they said to him let us save you from drugs and God will forgive you, come with us and kill the largest number of Libyans, they deceived him. Why did you make him a drug addict? He was a drunkard, and they said to him God will forgive you if you come with us and kill 10 Libyans so that God would forgive you. Why did you make him a drunkard, drug addict, thief, and criminal, and wanted to get forgiveness on the hands of these groups and tried to ruin the Arab nation and become a germ, this is your fault. This is not our fault that he was a criminal, drunkard, and drug addict. Every family should examine why their son has reached that stage. From now on the sentence issued by the People's Congresses that everyone who is found guilty of not knowing God properly will be to crush him immediately, there will be no retreat, similar to when they say that someone is seriously ill and there is no cure.

How can we allow someone to come and say that we are nonbelievers before the Muslims? We are the imams of Muslims and leaders of the Muslims and from Africa to Asia they come to us for blessings and they consider us their imams. How can someone come and say that we are nonbelievers? This is completely rejected by any standard, and would be resisted with every force and very firmly.

This is shamelessness, ignorance, and impertinence. It is immoral. How can anyone accuse the innocent of being nonbelievers, especially if they fear God, they fast, and they pray and perform pilgrimage? In Misratah, Banghazi, Tripoli, or Ijdabia, how can you say that they are nonbelievers? Who authorized you to issue this sentence? You go and pray yourself.

Brothers, if someone wants to spread the call of God, he can come to the Mosque, anywhere, or on the radio and say: Brothers keep the prayer time, he is welcome. Keep the fast. Anyone who can go for pilgrimage should do so. Be good to your parents. Be good to your neighbors. This is all good. Who would say no to him? Bring 1000 shaykhs and let them in the streets, mosques, and everywhere and let them tell us things like this. This we encourage. But if they say you are nonbelievers and get a Kalashnikov and let us fire at you, and your prayers are invalid, your burial is invalid, you should fast for 45 days, and you should pile 25 kg of dust on your backs every Friday, then this is ignorance of God itself. This is silly. This is fabricated by the Israeli, Jewish, and Christian intelligence organs in Asia. We do not know these movements. We the Arabs do not know them. All this ignorance of God and the Muslim Brotherhood movements came to us from the Islamic East, which is the work of the foreign intelligence services.

Do you know a movement called Al-Qidyaniyyah, and a movement called Al-Ahmadiyyah, and Al-Baha'iyyah? Of course, these are infidels. When you come to this movement called Al-Qidyaniyyah and see them pray, you will find that they do not pray with the Koran, they pray with something else, something they made up.

Ahmadzadah or Mirzadah made it for them. The same goes for Sayyid Qotb of Egypt. He is not an Arab; he belongs to these very movements. He is charged with spreading religious hypocrisy inside the Arab homeland, against pan-Arabism, against Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir because he raised the slogan of pan-Arabism and Arab unity. These people do not want the Arab motherland to unite or to become strong. Are we to abandon our own identity? God will not accept us on the day of reckoning if we do not have an identity! [passage omitted]

If there is someone who eats during Ramadan or opens cabarets during Ramadan in the Muslim streets, then we are against this. Let them go and attack these people, these nightclubs, and these bars! However, a country like Libya or, brothers, like Egypt—is it possible in Egypt [word indistinct] the movement of Al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah in Egypt—if there is a pious people in the Islamic world it is the Egyptian people. This is a people (?of God), even when Israel occupies them, they say it is God's will. Napolean came to them and deceived them; he said his name was Muhammad Napoleon, and they prayed behind him in al-Azar. They said he must be from God; as long as his name is Muhammad he must be from God. He, a European, prayed with them in the mosque. The Egyptian people are extremely pious. It is not possible for the movement of al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah to come from within it. [Words indistinct] what pious people are there in the Arab countries? We know it is the Egyptians. In everything they do they use the phrase: in the name of God. We witnessed it some time ago when communism used to exist, before it was canceled by Gorbachev. They used to say that there was a member, members of the Egyptian Communist Party who used to say: in the name of God, and God forgive me! They brought someone whom they had made an atheist, an infidel, and they told him come and walk over the Koran with your feet. When he came to do it he removed his shoes and said: in the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate! This means that you can sense the sacredness of Koran, that it is something holy.

This is true in spite of the fact that he had been persuaded; they persuaded him of atheism and he was about to enter their party of atheism. They said: Alright, Alright, I will walk over it. Then, without realizing it, he removed his shoes and said: in the name of God. They then said to him: How come then, you said that you had renounced God and had become an atheist. See the Egyptian people! The Egyptians are very pious.

The Egyptian people are very religious people. Is it logical to plant within the Egyptian people the al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah organization and make them renounce their religion? This indicates that the issue is not an issue of religion. It is the issue of destroying the Arab nation and pan-Arabism and serving the Israelis, the Americans, Zionism, and imperialism. Is it logical that the Sudanese people should have the same organization? Is it logical that we should force the Libyan people to renounce their religion? We in Libya have a mosque between two mosques; a Libyan who does not go to the hajj many times is considered as not having performed the hajj pilgrimage. All our monies are spent on the minor and major pilgrimages. Despite all that we have been called nonbelievers. How can we be nonbelievers? [passage omitted]

People decide what laws they want to pass, and when they do so, all the people should abide by what has been decided. The people should be productive and involved in productive industries; the society should not be a consumer society alone.

You should decide whether Libya is a productive country relying on itself or not; Libya cannot be independent if it lives on goods and food imported from abroad. Do not let them say that he [Al-Qadhdhafi] is making it difficult for us. Who is making it difficult for you? Select anything you wish to buy from abroad and buy it but on the condition that you should produce something to sell abroad. You are free to want whatever you wish and go ahead and import it, but on condition that you produce something here to sell abroad. You say: We want to produce only rice and we know that we do not grow it here. Alright, produce wheat, or melons, or garlic, or whatever and sell it abroad and then import rice. But if you do not produce but want the rice then you should not have it. If you want a future for yourself and your children, then produce. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people had to revolt against themselves, and had to enlarge the framework of the people's court and open innumerable offices for the people's courts so that they will control these matters at the time they happen at every corner and every street. [passage omitted]

Every Libyan must have a work opportunity in services or in production. Every Libyan who graduated from a university or from an institute cannot sit idle. It is wrong to stay idle and unemployed. How can you stay idle without work? How can it be that work opportunity is open to the foreigners while the Libyan is unemployed? How can it be allowed to happen that after 20 years, after studying, and after graduation one finds oneself in the street? What are you trying to do? You can ask for a farm or a workshop and necessarily an office job. The office job is destitution. Those who offer you office jobs are laughing at you. If your wages stopped you would suddenly become destitute and have nothing to feed yourself and your children. On the other hand, the farm can keep you alive and the workshop can keep you alive. If you go fishing you will be able to live. [passage omitted] All these things must be guaranteed by law. If any is not guaranteed by law you must legislate in the People's Congresses laws to guarantee these things. There is no freedom or historic opportunity offered and available to any people like yours. You are not poor; you have got the petroleum and have the capabilities and the conditions are very favorable, provided you exercised the power and exploited your capabilities. You will become unequalled people in terms of progress, prosperity, morals, and in social terms. That depends of course on the condition that all those attempts to ruin you must be

immediatly eliminated: favoritism, nepotism, corruption, heresy, colonialism, dependence, and consumerism. You must speedily eradicate all of these. You will be in the happiest position.

You have got the iron and steel complex, which is a base for progress. You have the gas pipeline which stretches fron Burayqah to Al Khums and should stretch further to all of north Africa. This energy never used to exist. It provides you with opportunities and facilitates the work of plants and at houses. It provides you with energy which never was before. When the great man-made river is completed it will be yet another capability to be added to the bases of progress. However, we cannot live on the gas pipeline, on the water pipeline, or on the iron and steel complex. These are strategic industries which must be complemented by strategic industries for defense against the Israelis, against the Americans, and against Europe if it is an aggressor. Had you had missiles capable of striking U.S. bases in Sicily, they would not have attacked you. If they wanted to attack the military, at least the military would tell them not to because we cannot attack Libya, as it has missiles and it would strike the bases in Europe. They were unattentive toward Lampedusa until after we hit it, then they were awakened. Europe will not help the United States when it knows there are missiles capable of crossing the sea and striking any city. If they attacked our cities, we will attack their cities. We do not intend to launch any aggression against them, however, we must possess a deterrent weapon.

Why should the Israelis launch their missiles in the Mediterranean Sea and their satellites over our heads while we are busy consuming empty [word indistinct] and playing cards? What sort of a nation is this which has forgotten its future, forgotten its glory? What value does this life of yours have—this worm-like life? A biological life similar to the life of a herd of animals?

Was earth created for the Israelis and their missiles and for the Americans and their fleets? Ultimately, the U.S. empire will disappear as the Ottoman empire did and the empire of Alexander the Great, of the Phoenicians and the Romans. They are on their way down to extinction; we must climb up therefore, we have to correct our course immediately and initiate the revolution of the people immediatly. Libya bears the greatest undertaking in linking the eastern side of the Arab nation with the western side, of connecting Africa and it is the gate of the Mediterranean Sea. Libya is the heart of the Arab nation and is the reliable factor in everything—in instigating the Arab nation and in creating the model of the new and modern, the virtuous, the progressive, the glorious and dignified life. Are you aware of your responsibility or what? Do you not look at the map? Show them the map of the Arab homeland, show the map of the Arab homeland on the screen and let the people see their position. This position is not easy.

In addition, the material steps should be completed with a strategic defensive capability; all these should be ready and organized. Let the producer of this live TV relay show the map on the screen. Let the people see their position. There may be some people who do not know where their position is. Let us see the whole of the Arab homeland, alright. The part in color is the Arab homeland from the Ocean to the Gulf. Here is Libya right in the center. Let us have a close-up of Libya so they can see it. Go west of Libya: there is Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, the Sahara, Mauritania, and then the Ocean. Go east of Libya; there is Egypt, and the Sudan, then there is Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and here is the Gulf. Did you see where Libya is? Libya is in the center—the link between the two wings of the Arab nation—as if the map resembles a bird and Libya is in the chest of the bird. If this link collapses, what will be the fate of the Arab nation? Like someone with a broken back. [passage omitted]

From the 6th anniversary of the revolution we decided that the transformation in the country should be democratic in favor of the people. That was in the speech I delivered on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the revolution. Now I am not satisfied with all your behavior—the conferences and the committees, which you, Libyans, administer. My dissatisfaction resembles my dissatisfaction with the then monarchical government which used to rule you; I carried out a revolution against that government; now who can stage a revolution against the people? The people can stage a revolution against themselves. When you leave here you should go to the people's conferences and submit to them at emergency session the possibility of the people staging a revolution, and the expansion of the people's courts. All corrupt people should be brought to these courts for trial—those who use bribery and those who use influence and those who use nepotism, etc, who disreputed us and who harmed our land and our honor, and those who are destroying our future and are helping the enemy. Those who have criminal records should be referred to these people's courts. Those who will be corrupt in the future should be referred too. [passage omitted]

I want to tell you that my time is devoted to international affairs. My time is also devoted to Arab unity and the Palestinian question and the Islamic leadership. I participate in all this. I am a soldier in all of them. I instigate the world on all these issues. I have no time for your needs. I beg you to look after your own affairs. [passage omitted]

The people should revolt against themselves, and that is it. This is the people's revolution. The people can sit in the people's congresses and solve this riddle. When I carried out the revolution I debated it with neither the people nor with anything. I did it and I carried the responsibility along with my colleagues. Now this is the people's revolution. All right, goodbye. [applause, chanting]

Western Sahara

Communique Reports 190 Moroccans Killed

LD1210141689 Algiers APS in English 1327 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] SADR [Sahara Democratic Arab Republic] (Liberated Territories) 12/10/89 (APS)—The Saharan Ministry of Information issued a communique Thursday in which it gave the (?results) of the attack waged Wednesday at dawn by fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army against Moroccan forces in Hawza.

According to the communique, the attack resulted in 190 dead, including Lieutanant Charboudi Ahmed, commander of the 8th Brigade, and 150 wounded, including a captain.

The Saharan Army, the communique added, also made 36 Moroccan prisoners and recuperated an important quantity of weapons and equipments.

Government Issues Statement on Guelta Zammour

LD1210112989 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] SADR [Sahara Democratic Arab Republic] (Liberated Territories), 12/10/89 (APS)—The Saharan Ministry of Information issued Wednesday a communique in which it denounced the campaign of the Moroccan media which, "in order to hide the impact of the great battle of Guelta Zammour (...) started a zealous campaign in order to hide the (Moroccan) failure for ridiculous reasons."

"...They pretend, the communique continued, that the battle of Guelta Zammour may have been waged from another country against which coveteousness has always been present."

For the Saharans, "this campaign convinces us that the persistance of the war of aggression against the Saharan people is turing into a generalized conflict in all the area and if vague impulses would prevail over wisdom, virtues of dialogue and negotiations to solve the Western Sahara conflict as this was supposed after the Marrakech meeting, risks of a generalized regional conflict would then become imminent," the communique indicated.

Dealing with the battle of Guelta Zammour waged last Saturday, the communique considered that "Guelta Zammour falls in the frame of the struggle of the Saharan people and it is neither the first nor the last battle "pointing out that" it was waged by the Saharan People's Liberation Army which is solidly established on the territory of its country and more than ever determined to continue operating from the liberated territories until the total liberation of its homeland."

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

LD1310094389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpts] United Nations, Oct 13 (KUNA)—Kuwait Thursday hailed the 1988 cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran as "the most remarkable achievement of the U.N. in maintaining international peace and security."

In a speech before the General Assembly, Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah nonetheless deplored that negotiations under Security Council Resolution 598, adopted unanimously July 20, 1987, have not led to the desired conclusion, namely a comprehensive peace agreement.

Therefore, he said, Kuwait continues to support the efforts of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his assistants to implement the resolution fully. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian struggle has witnessed two developments of considerable significance—the outbreak of the nearly two-year old intifadah and the "positive and brave position" adopted by the Palestinian leadership since the meeting of the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] in November 1988, he said.

"All the Arab countries have blessed and supported the resolutions of the PNC and the new line of the Palestinian leadership...as a result the Palestinian position has turned into an Arab one that searches again for peace and puts forward an integrated plan based on justice and international legitimacy and the relevant U.N. resolutions," he said.

Turning to Lebanon, he urged the world community to back the tripartite Arab high committee and help it succeed in bring about national reconciliation there.

But he warned the question of Lebanon cannot be settled so long as Israel continues to occupy part of its territories, interfere in its internal affairs and keep on transgressing its sovereignty and the inviolability of its soil.

"The international community has to compel Israel to implement the various Security Council resolutions on the complete withdrawal from Lebanese territory with no strings attached," Shaykh Sabah said. [passage omitted]

Discussing the world economic situation, Shaykh Sabah said the atmosphere of international detente could easily be upset if the gap between rich and poor countries widens further and world debt is growing while prices of raw materials are falling. The debt problem, Shaykh Sabah said, poses the most severe and pressing obstacle and requires urgent and comprehensive solutions that take into account the human suffering which afflicts peoples of those countries.

He recalled the historic initiative announced by the amir of Kuwait at the U.N. a year ago with the aim of alleviating the debt burden of the developing countries.

This, Kuwait hopes, will extricate these countries from the cycle of crises and launch a new phase of international economic relations that are more just and equitable, Shaykh Sabah said. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti foreign minister called upon the U.N. to study the amir's proposal the text of which was submitted to the U.N. secretary-general recently.

PDRY

JANA on Efforts To Restore U.S.-PDRY Relations

LD1310092589 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] New York, Al-Tumur [October] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Informed sources at the United Nations said that concentrated contacts are being made between the U.S. and South Yemen to resume their diplomatic relations shortly.

Those sources told JANA's correspondent in New York that the ambassadors of both countries to Kuwait had started several months ago many contacts with regards to the resumption of relations and the exchange of ambassadors.

Party Secretary Returns From GDR, Bulgaria

EA1210110489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, returned to Aden this evening after ending visits to the GDR and Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

Supreme People's Council Presidium Meets 11 Oct

EA1210131389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The Supreme People's Council Presidium [SPCP] which held its 36th session today chaired by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the SPCP, saluted the Yemeni masses on the 26th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution which they are celebrating in an atmosphere of growing democracy and openness in the life of our people and in the context of the final preparations for the fifth round of elections of local people's councils under the new election law, which has reinforced the democratic rights of the citizens to nomination for the elections.

The Presidium called on the citizens to exercise their right of declaring their candidacy through the election committee in the governorates and to fully exercise their election rights as constitutionally and legally guaranteed so as to render the elections democratically successful.

The Presidium stressed that holding the elections in such an atmosphere of democracy, openness, and respect for the opinions of others constituted progress along the road of the comprehensive political and economic reform, of which democracy was the last basic supportive pillar for bringing about circumstances more conducive to the economic and social advancement of society and the termination of the various distortions and deficiencies of the past.

The Presidium was briefed on the participation of our country's delegation, led by the chairman of the Presidium, in the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit and on the chairman's visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It hailed the role of our country's delegation in the NAM summit and the meetings held by the chairman of the Presidium with numerous heads of state and delegations participating in the conference, as well as his participation in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Libyan 1 September Revolution and his meetings with its leaders, which were aimed at developing the relations between the two countries.

The Presidium expressed satisfaction at the results of the official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which served to develop bilateral relations and expand cooperation in numerous fields serving the interests of the Yemeni and Jordanian peoples.

The Presidium discussed the date of the fifth round of elections—for the local people's councils—and decided upon the 3d week of November. It also discussed a number of issues affecting preparations for the 10th ordinary session of the Supreme People's Council.

The Presidium fully examined the condition of citizens living in the desert and considered ways of providing them with more amenities and services—in light of the inspection tour of the coast by the Presidium chairman last July—and an assessment of their most pressing concerns. The Presidium stressed the need to solve such problems with available resources and the need to take into consideration the specific nature of conditions in remote desert areas.

The Presidium also ratified the loan agreement signed between our country's government and the Islamic Bank for Development on the financing of a project to develop agricultural cooperatives in the east of the country. According to the agreement, the bank will provide a loan of $7.15 million for financing the project, which will cost $24.5 million in all. The Presidium also ratified the agreement with Czechoslovakia on judicial and legal cooperation. It discussed a number of other issues on its agenda.

Soviet Fishery Industry Union Delegation Visits

EA1110105089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Fishery Industry Union, led by Comrade (Vasiliy Grenkov), member of the union's Central Committee and chairman of its Rostov branch, arrived in Aden at dawn today for a several-day visit to our country at the invitation of the General Fisheries Workers' Union.

The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reports that the visit by the Soviet fisheries union's delegation is being made in accordance with the protocol signed between the fisheries unions of the two friendly countries, with the aim of exchanging expertise and strengthening relations between the workers in Democratic Yemen and the USSR in the field of fisheries.

The delegation was met by Brother Muhsin 'Umar Yahya, member of the Central Council of the General Confederation of Unions and organizing secretary of the General Fisheries Workers' Union.

Qatar

Amir Confers With Nicaragua's Ortega in Doha

JN1210173489 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Doha, Oct 12 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani began official talks today with the Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks centred on ways to develop bilateral relations in various fields.

The Nicaraguan president informed H.H. the amir about the situation in Nicaragua and in Central America in the light of the agreement reached recently among the countries of the region and the steps taken to implement the agreement with a view to maintaining stability and security and enhancing ties of neighbourliness among these countries.

The Nicaraguan president also acquainted H.H. the amir with the internal situation in Nicaragua and preparations under way for the general elections which will be conducted in February under the auspices of the U.N. to elect a president and members of the parliament.

The talks also focused on the situation in the Gulf region. The Middle East conflict and the Palestinian cause.

The two sides emphasised the need to achieve permanent and comprehensive peace in the region.

Discussions also covered a host of regional and international issues of interest to the two countries, including the Lebanese crisis.

They expressed the hope that the Lebanese deputies, meeting in al-Ta'if Saudi Arabia, will be able to reach to an end to the bloody conflict in Lebanon which remained unsolved over the past years. The two sides expressed their complete support for the genuine efforts of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon in that regard.

Palestinian Problem Called 'Most Threatening'

TA1010204689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Addressing a memorial ceremony today for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fallen of the Yom Kippur War, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that today, as well as in the past, safe borders are a condition for Israel's defense and safety, even at times when we are promoting the peace initiative and are lending a hand to the Arabs. The problem most threatening to our existence is the Palestinian issue. It is at the very heart of the country, near the population centers, and not somewhere in Iraq or even the Golan Heights.

The fact that Israel is holding talks with the United States and Egypt proves that we have managed to repel the campaign for negotiations with the PLO and did not fall into this trap. [passage omitted]

Arens Doubts Reports About Baker's Impatience

TA1210124989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said he has doubts about the veracity of the reports that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is losing patience because of Israel's various reservations regarding the U.S. proposals. Minister Arens told our political correspondent Arye Golan that Mr Baker does not strike him as an impatient man.

Arens asserted that the issues under discussion are very crucial for Israel, and that we will show enough patience to secure our vital interests. Minister Arens added that we do not want to discuss the election modalities with the PLO, which has already declared itself to be a Palestinian state [sentence as heard]. Israel is also not prepared to discuss the Palestinians' right of return to Israel, since this would threaten the very existence of the state.

Arens Says U.S. Willing To Study 'Our Comments'

TA1310071489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Friedman] The State Department spokeswoman said that Israel has not yet officially rejected Baker's five-point plan. However, when you respond negatively to two of Baker's five points, is this not saying no to the whole plan?

[Arens] We are in no way at the stage of saying yes or no. We are at the stage of trying, with the help of Secretary of State Baker, to reach a draft formula that will not only be accepted by us and the United States, but also by us and Egypt.

[Friedman] How would you describe the current state of our contacts with the Americans? Is the basis still Baker's plan alone?

[Arens] Look, Secretary of State Baker is the one trying to find a formula that will be accepted by both Israel and Egypt. For this reason it is only natural that he and his proposed formulas lie at the center of the discussions.

[Friedman] When Baker says that the composition of the Palestinian delegation would be determined in an agreement between Israel, Egypt, and the United States, why should we care if Egypt chooses to consult the Palestinians first? What difference does it make whom the Egyptians talk to? It matters whom Israel talks to, does it not?

[Arens] I do not think that it is advisable to state on the radio what we accept or what we do not when we are in the midst of trying to reach an agreed formula. Please, leave this work to us. It is our—and naturally Baker's—wish to reach a formula to which all would agree.

[Dan] Do you believe that an agreed formula can be reached when Egypt is not willing to drop the idea of a PLO presence and we do not accept it?

[Arens] If I did not believe that such a possibility existed, I would not be doing this job.

[Friedman] In your frequent discussions with Baker, do you detect a willingness on his part to consider the amendments you have proposed and to incorporate them in his original proposal?

[Arens] There is no doubt in my mind that a willingness to examine our comments exists. At the same time, there is a willingness to lend an ear to the Egyptian claims.

[Dan] You have said that you do not detect signs of impatience on the part of the U.S. secretary of state. Is the United States' patience an inexhaustible resource, or is it also limited?

[Arens] I cannot make quantitative assessments of someone's patience. I believe, however, that although the peace process is unfortunately a little slow, reaching some achievement requires patience.

[Dan] The question is: What will the United States do when it loses its patience?

[Arens] I would not like to comment on such hypothetical questions. At present we are working patiently. Unfortunately, the problem will not be solved within the next 24 hours.

[Friedman] Egypt is not the only one holding consultations with the PLO. The United States is also talking to the PLO these days. One can assume that when Baker is drafting his points, he is taking into account possible

PLO reactions to it. Why do we only have reservations about the Egyptian-PLO dialogue and none about the one between the United States and the PLO, or, at least, no reservations we are voicing?

[Arens] I said nothing to you about our reservations or lack of them. I believe that what is clear is the fact that the two main points on which we are trying to reach an agreed formula are: A. the composition of the Palestinian delegation, and our refusal to sit with the PLO; and B. the agenda for the meeting.

[Friedman] Why are Shim'on Peres and particularly Yitzhaq Rabin out of the picture on the contacts with the United States?

[Arens] I do not think that they are outside the contacts. Everyone is dealing with his area of responsibility. I am the foreign minister; Mr Peres is the finance minister; and Mr Rabin is the defense minister.

[Friedman] This, however, was not the situation until 2 weeks ago or, rather, until last Friday's Cabinet resolution.

[Arens] No, the situation has not changed at all. When I was in New York recently, I represented Israel as its foreign minister. Later I reported on my talks and contacts.

[Friedman] The Alignment is giving the Likud a few more weeks for it to present an accepted plan. Do you believe that this time frame—until the end of November, Rabin said—will be sufficient for the Israeli Government to formulate a peace plan that would be acceptable to all its components?

[Arens] I do not believe that the right thing to do now is to set a time frame or schedule. We must work together, while defending Israel's interests and maintaining a common desire to promote the peace process.

[Friedman] Until recently, the Likud leaders have been saying that if the Alignment should quit the government, they would opt for early elections. Now we hear that the Likud is holding intensive contacts with the religious parties concerning a narrow-based government. Why did you change your mind?

[Arens] I am not confirming any such change. I, and we in the Likud, believe that it is very important that the current national unity government continue functioning. It is hard for me to envision progress in the peace process through a narrow-based government.

[Dan] Do you, however, confirm the fact that such contacts with the religious parties have been held?

[Arens] I have not held any contacts. Naturally, however, in the framework of the current government which incorporates the Likud and the Alignment, traditional political rivals, there will always be some searching for potential partners from among the smaller parties. This was the case during the previous government's term, and I guess it is the same today.

[Friedman] Thank very much, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and a happy new year.

[Arens] Thank you and a happy new year.

Shamir Explains Opposition to Various Plans

TA1310083689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Report by Amir Fink on Prime Minister Shamir's appearance at a Likud gathering in Herzliyya on 12 October—recorded]

[Text] [Fink] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says: We will not let the Palestinians achieve through diplomatic means what they have failed to achieve through violence. They are trying to pressure us to surrender through political tricks. We can outdo them.

[Shamir] The violence will not last forever. We will put an end to it some day. In the meantime, they are killing each other. One can assume that they will continue with this trend. This, however, is no consolation for us. We must prove to them that all of this violence will not make us budge a single inch. I mentioned the defense minister earlier. He is right in saying that they will never defeat us by stones and firebombs.

[Fink] The prime minister referred to what he calls the confusion caused by the numerous political plans.

[Shamir] When reading all the different proposals, the various plans and points—10 points, 5 points, 4 points—the public gets confused. The people cannot tell them apart. Let me tell you: When I examine the various items in depth, I see no major differences between them. This is not the main point. The main point is that the sponsors of these plans want to bring Israel and its representatives to a public, political meeting in Cairo with a delegation that would represent the PLO, the very terror organization that is leading the war being waged today against the State of Israel. The PLO would view such a public meeting, in Cairo or elsewhere, as a great victory and success. They will come out dancing with cheers of victory: We have defeated Israel!

Basyuni Discusses Tripartite Meeting, Delegation

TA1110174589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Excerpt] A meeting between the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. foreign ministers will be very useful. First, however, we must reach an understanding on the entire peace process. These remarks were made today by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni after his meeting with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman has the details:

[Gutman] In his meetings today, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens wished to study the Egyptian responses to the five-point plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Arens met with Shim'on Shamir, Israel's

ambassador to Egypt, who yesterday met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Later, Egypt's Ambassador Basyuni arrived at Arens' office. Basyuni was the one who initiated the meeting.

In the meeting, the two discussed the U.S. proposal, but not in detail. Afterward, Basyuni told us that the composition of the Palestinian delegation will not be determined by Israel, but by the Palestinians themselves:

[Begin Basyuni recording in English with superimposed Hebrew translation] No one can choose the other side's delegation. You never choose the people you would talk with, said Basyuni, adding: The Palestinians themselves have the right to decide on the composition of their delegation. [end recording]

[Gutman] Concerning the tripartite foreign ministers meeting, Basyuni said that it could be very useful only if it follows an Israeli-Egyptian agreement on the whole process. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Comment on Inner Cabinet Vote

TA0810093189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by 'Oded Zaray, Eytan Rabin, Eliyahu Zehavi, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent Association in Gaza, said in reaction to the Inner Cabinet vote that regardless of his opposition to the Egyptian plan, Israel has shown that it is embracing an intransigent, uncompromising position and refuses to acknowledge the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

As'ad al-Saftawi, a prominent Gaza Strip leader, said that the decision shows that Israel is trying to torpedo the peace process in the region. He maintained that Israel is showing the world that it does not want to end the conflict in the region.

Other Gaza Strip leaders expressed their opinion that because of the vote there will be an escalation in incidents in the territories. According to a very senior leader who preferred to remain anonymous, the Inner Cabinet resolution will result in more casualties on both sides, "which neither Israel nor the Palestinians need."

A young Gaza resident told HA'ARETZ on Friday: The Gaza residents do not care what the Israeli Government decides. We want our country, and that is all we are fighting for. It does not matter to us which side rejects or endorses plans. The important thing is that we will have a state. [passage omitted]

Detainees Compile List of Names for Delegation

TA0810124489 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Oct 89 p A3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Security prisoners and detainees smuggled a letter to leading activists in the territories over the weekend demanding that pressure be brought to bear on Israel, through Egypt, to release representatives from the lockup facilities so that they might take part in the meeting in Cairo.

The letter was shown to MA'ARIV. It includes a list of five activists identified with various political trends, whose release is sought in order to join the talks: Attorney Talal Abu-'Afifa, who is considered a leader of the al-Shabibah (Fatah's youth movement in the territories); Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, the former acting editor in chief of AL-FAJR and a Fatah supporter; Sam'an Khuri, a supporter of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Badran Ja'bar, a leading public figure associated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Shaykh Mahmud Abu-Tir, a leading proponent of the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, HAMAS.

Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem have emphasized that the list was compiled in response to criticism that the proposed candidates for the delegation represent the fashionable jet-set leadership, but not the people who bear the major onus of the intifadah.

They maintain that the deliberations in the Palestinian camp prove that they have not despaired of the chance for negotiations with Israel. These, they believe, will eventually be held in Cairo.

Interviewed by AL-FAJR, Faysal al-Husayni said that the Inner Cabinet vote proved that the Israeli initiative was meant to gain time, but it is necessary to wait for the Alignment and U.S. reactions. Dr Sari Nusaybah added that sooner or later Israel will have to enter negotiations with a Palestinian delegation.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah called on the Palestinians to proceed along the path they have chosen, despite the suffering. That way they can ultimately gain their legitimate rights.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said: "The Inner Cabinet resolution manifests the Likud's desire to break the Palestinian side. We will not surrender or come to talks on our knees."

Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, a supporter of the rejectionist front in Gaza, said that Israel pursues its rejectionist positions out of a sense of strength.

Majority Favors Change in Territory Situation

TA1010140589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Oct 89 p 12

[Text] Most of Israel's Jewish population sees a need to change the current situation in the territories. A poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi research institute posed seven questions to examine changes in public opinion over the past 18 months. The answers given in

January, July, and September 1989 are quoted in percentage points in the following table.

	Sep 89	Jul 89	Jan 89
1. Incorporation of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza into the State of Israel, without the inhabitants	22	21	17
2. Incorporation of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with the inhabitants, but without citizenship	10	11	9
3. Incorporation of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza with the inhabitants, with citizenship	4	3	4
4. Maintaining the present situation	4	2	7
5. Maintaining Israel's rule and granting autonomy	26	27	25
6. Territorial compromise with Jordan	25	28	24
7. Territorial compromise with Palestinian representatives	9	8	14

An overwhelming conclusion from the findings is that the number of those who favor a continuation of the present situation is very low, amounting to 7 percent in January and only 4 percent currently.

The number of those who are not prepared to forgo Israel's rule over the territories has risen from 62 percent at the beginning of 1989 to 66 percent at present.

Modi'in Ezrahi conducted its polls through personal interviews with 1,200 respondents who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population, excluding inhabitants of kibbutzim, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Shamir Discusses MiG Landing Controversy

TA1210121989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spoke for the first time today regarding the landing of the Syrian MiG yesterday. He addressed the issue during a meeting with 12th grade high school students in Ra'anana. Yafa Glick reports from our mobile broadcasting unit in Ra'anana.

[Begin recording] [Glick] Yitzhaq Shamir this morning said that we should not turn a happy event into a controversial issue.

[Shamir] First of all, let us not turn an incident that should cause happiness into an issue that causes argument and gives rise to worry. This is first and foremost a good event. It is good for Israel that such an important and significant plane, which has great value and is currently one of the best planes in the Syrian Air Force, and in the Arab air forces in general, has deserted Syria and arrived here. Secondly, this will strengthen Israel's military network and be the source of much additional information and intelligence data. It is good and important. It helps make us strong. It weakens the enemy while making us more powerful.

Thirdly, people are asking, with complete justification, how, why, and in what way could the plane have landed without being immediately detected. There is an ongoing investigation into all that, and it is already being examined and probed. I believe that the people of Israel, out of long experience, can have complete trust and confidence in our Air Force.

[Glick] Addressing the peace initiative, the prime minister said that at this stage what is being discussed are not negotiations, but a mere technical debate which has been blown out of proportion. Shamir said that there is no need to involve foreign ministers and heads of state in such a debate.

[Shamir] All in all, there should only be a technical discussion. It has been inflated into some kind of major political issue, into an event. It is not yet time for this. Therefore, we say that we certainly do not want PLO men at such a meeting, just as we do not want them as partners in negotiations at any stage of the talks. We do want Arabs—Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—who agree to hold elections. We will meet with them. There is no need to involve ministers or foreign ministers or heads of state. This should just be a technical debate.

[Glick] Yitzhaq Shamir also spoke of Israel's efforts to secure the release of the Pollard couple.

[Shamir] It is not customary for a government to organize vocal public outcries. We try to quietly help the Pollard couple on humanitarian grounds, within the constraints of acceptable behavior between friendly countries. [end recording]

Air Force Appoints Team To Probe MiG Incident

TA1210113889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Our correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned that Brigadier General Herzl Budinger of the Israeli Air Force [IAF] will head a team that will investigate the circumstances surrounding the landing of the Syrian MiG-23. Another officer, a colonel commanding an IAF base responsible for air control, will also be on the team.

The letter of appointment will be delivered to them today and they will launch a probe into the incident immediately. Among other things, they will investigate how it was possible for the MiG to fly over Israeli air space for 7 minutes without being intercepted.

Radio Cites Syrian 'Lies' About MiG Incident

JN1210172489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1438 GMT 12 Oct 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Yesterday, or to be more specific, yesterday morning, Syrian pilot Major 'Adil Basim fled from his command, landed his sophisticated MiG-23 fighter plane in Israeli territory, and requested political asylum.

This piece of news was carried yesterday by the world news agencies with lightning speed. Television also carried pictures to various parts of the world of the Syrian fighter plane, which carries the number 2786, showing the plane to be intact and guarded by personnel of the Israel Defense Forces. This is what people heard, read about, or saw in real life.

As for the reaction shown in Damascus, the official spokesmen hastened to propagate the lie that the Syrian pilot had had to make a forced landing in Israel because of a technical failure in his plane. The Syrian military spokesman went so far in his lies as to claim that the Syrian fighter plane was seen landing in Israeli territory with columns of smoke billowing from it.

As a matter of fact, this should not be found strange or surprising, as Damascus and its spokesmen have made a habit of propagating lies and fabrications. Telling lies, obscuring facts, and displaying procrastination are, as is well-known, established practices of the Syrian Ba'thist regime and its media.

At any rate, and leaving aside the motives that prompted the Syrian pilot to flee with his fighter plane and request political asylum in Israel, this incident has a special significance concerning the status of the Syrian Air Force Corps in particular and the situation of the Syrian Ba'thist regime in general. There is no doubt that this incident will greatly embarrass the Damascus rulers. Morever, the incident will have negative repercussions and effects on the higher command in the Syrian Air Force Corps in particular and on the higher General Command in the Syrian Army in general.

As for the lies propagated by the official spokesman in Damascus to cover up for the incident, it must be said first that lying is prohibited by the 10 commandments and the heavenly faiths. Second, the blatant lies propagated by the official spokesmen in Damascus on this matter are like the ostrich burying its head in the sand or like trying to block out the sun the with a worn-out sieve.

Conditions Required for Lebanese Border Accord

TA1210161889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's spokesman in Jerusalem says that Israel would be willing to reach an agreement concerning the safety of its northern border with a Lebanese government. The ministry spokesman says an agreement could be reached if the government that is established in Lebanon has the power to exercise its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and is able to prevent terrorists from organizing on its soil and launching attacks against Israel.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, according to the Foreign Ministry, Israel does not have any territorial claims on Lebanon.

Walesa Accepts Invitation; Delegation Due in Nov

TA1010101089 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Hayim Bi'or]

[Text] Polish Solidarity movement leader Lech Walesa has accepted Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar's invitation to visit Israel as a guest of the Histadrut. In a letter he sent Qeysar at the beginning of this week, Walesa announced that the visit will be possible in the course of 1990. In the meantime, the planning of the cooperation between the Polish movement and the Histadrut will be launched by a senior Solidarity delegation due to arrive in Israel at the beginning of November. The delegation includes three Presidium members: Zbigniew Bozek, a member of the Solidarity Central Committee; Jacek Merkel, member of the Polish Parliament; Andrzej Brozowski, director of the movement's international relations department; and Johana Piluska, the Solidarity delegate in Brussels, who represented the movement at the 15th Histadrut conference in 1985 [all names and titles as published].

In his signed letter, Walesa wrote to Qeysar that his movement thanks the Histadrut for its moral, political, and material assistance during the hard period the organization faced in recent years.

Cameroon Delegation Seeking Site for Embassy

TA1110152689 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] The African Republic of Cameroon will soon open its first embassy in Israel. DAVAR has learned that a five-member team from that country arrived last Tuesday to find an appropriate location for an embassy and to begin setting it up.

The DAVAR correspondent reports that the delegation has not yet decided whether the Cameroon Embassy is to be located in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. The establishment of a Cameroon Embassy in Israel will help tighten the two countries' trade relations, which have gathered momentum over the past 2 years. It will be noted that Israel has had an embassy in Cameroon for the past 18 months. Israel's ambassador to Cameroon, Ya'aqov Qeynan [title as published], has recently taken action with that state's leaders to persuade them to implement the principle of reciprocity in diplomatic relations between the two countries. His efforts will be culminated with the imminent establishment of the Cameroon Embassy in Israel. The DAVAR correspondent adds that the identity of the Cameroon ambassador to Israel is unknown at this date.

Investment Declines 2.5 Percent in 2d Quarter

TA1110111889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by economics correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Investment fell in the second quarter, compared with the preceding three months, continuing a trend that began in the first quarter, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The seasonally adjusted data showed that investment in fixed assets dropped about 2.5 percent in the second quarter of the year from the first, after falling 4 percent in the first three months from the last quarter of 1988.

The bureau said that excluding residential building, investment dropped 3 percent, reflecting a 7 percent drop in investment in machinery and equipment, stability in non-residential building and a 4 percent rise in the purchase of vehicles by firms. Vehicle purchases had plunged 33 percent in the first three months of 1989.

The level of investment in the first six months of 1989 was down 2 percent from the second half of last year.

Investment in machinery and equipment rose 1 percent in the first six months, compared with the second half of 1988, and represented 40 percent of all investment expenditures in the period.

Vehicle purchases dropped 31 percent in the January-June period, and represented 15 percent of all investment in the half. Residential building, 25 percent of all investment, rose 3 percent in the first half, and non-residential building, 20 percent of all investment, rose 4 percent.

Shekel Value Lowered 0.5 Percent Against Dollar

TA1110111789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by economics staff]

[Text] The Bank of Israel yesterday devalued the shekel by more than half a percent against the dollar and by over 0.3 percent against the basket of currencies.

The central bank set the rate of exchange at NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 2.0832 against the basket of currencies. This was 1 percent above the "stable rate of exchange"—the value around which the shekel is allowed to fluctuate by 3 percent. The rate of exchange of the shekel against the dollar was set at NIS 2.0165.

Trade Deficit Declines During First 9 Months

TA1210133689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] Israel's trade deficit totalled $158 million last month, bringing the cumulative figure for the third quarter of the year to $485m., 32 percent less than in the same quarter last year.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the deficit totalled $1.8 billion in the first nine months of the year, 15.6 percent less than in the same period for 1988. The bureau said that after adjusting for seasonal factors, the average deficit for August and September was $158m., a similiar level to that of the previous two months.

The shrinking deficit has resulted from a strong increase in exports, which more than offset a small rise in imports. Exports last month totalled $884m., bringing the total for the last quarter to $2.5b., up 19 percent over the figure for the third quarter of 1988. Since the beginning of the year, exports have totalled $7.5b., a rise of 8.5 percent over the first nine months of 1988.

Imports last month totalled $1.042b., bringing the total to $3b. for the three months ending September, a rise of 7 percent over the third quarter of 1988. Imports for the first nine months of 1989 totalled $9.3b., a 2.8 percent increase over the same period last year. [passage omitted]

Jobless Rate Declines 6 Percent During Month

TA1210134589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 89 p 8

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] This year's rapid rise in the unemployment rate might be levelling out, according to Labour Ministry figures released yesterday, which showed the number of job seekers fell a seasonally adjusted 6 percent last month compared with August.

But in an indication of the continuing recession, the number of jobs available also fell, by 12 percent. The jobs that were on offer were increasingly snapped up by Israelis, with relatively few being passed on to Palestinian workers from the territories.

Last month, of the 18,100 job openings placed with the Employment Service, 13,500 were filled by Israelis and only 579 taken by Palestinians. In August, the Employment Service passed on 780 jobs to workers from the territories, while in September 1988, 1,346 jobs were given to Palestinians. The number of Palestinians legally working in Israel is also continuing to fall, with only 30,600 registered with the Employment Service.

The peaking of the rising unemployment trend was also felt in the development towns, where 10,300 residents were registered as unemployed last month compared with 10,700 in August. The Labour Ministry listed some 50 settlements as employment blackspots, with the list headed by Kefar Yona with a 15.4 percent unemployment rate.

In absolute figures, 88,400 people registered with the Employment Service last month as looking for work, compared with 87,400 people in August. But Labour Ministry officials pointed that once seasonal factors, such as the traditional September increase in the number of people looking for work in the harvest is taken into account, this slight nominal rise works out to a 6 percent drop in seasonally adjusted terms.

Industrialist on Economic Relations With Egypt

TA1110144789 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Oct 89 p 5

[Interview with 'Uzi Netan'el, head of a delegation of Israeli industrialists who visited Egypt "a while ago," and who was the first Israeli economics and trade adviser in 1980-81, by Ora Zarnitski—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Zarnitski] How and in what amount do trade deals with Egypt currently stand?

[Netan'el] Speaking in terms of direct trade, Israeli exports to Egypt in 1988 were small—just over $6 million. Imports from Egypt reached only $3 million. These data do not take into account Israel's purchase of several hundred million dollars worth of oil from Egypt, which is dealt with separately in the peace agreement. They also exclude tourism; very few Egyptians visit here.

As in the past, extensive trade, the extent of which would be hard to estimate, is carried out indirectly through a third country. One could assume that it is far larger than official trade.

[Zarnitski] What are the fields of trade?

[Netan'el] First and foremost is the field of agricultural produce and equipment, food products, chemicals, and veterinarian products—mostly livestock medicine. Potential trade exists in the fields of metals, textiles, and rubber products.

[Zarnitski] Were there any developments or changes in trade relations over the past decade?

[Netan'el] If there were any, they were not for the better, because there has been no change in the extent or diversity of the trade. Trade stood at some $10 million at the beginning of the decade. A large part of it was Israeli exports of food products such as eggs and fruit. These Egyptian purchases have stopped over time, because they refused to continue buying from us. [passage omitted]

[Zarnitski] What was the purpose of the delegation you headed?

[Netan'el] That was the first official delegation of the Industrialists Association, which included businessmen from various fields, mainly those related to agriculture. We held well-organized meetings with Egyptian businessmen under the auspices of the Agriculture Ministry in Cairo. Our mutually declared desire was to take the first step toward the establishment of relations between Israeli and Egyptian businessmen. This could be made possible only with the support and encouragement of the Egyptian Government and prominent public figures such as Dr Yusuf Wali. The talks were held at the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry with the full involvement of the minister and his senior staff.

Besides signing a cooperation agreement, which in itself is of high importance, we agreed to set up a permanent team that would include two Egyptians and two Israelis. Our two are Eli Laniado and I. It was agreed that the team would deal with specific problems that arise, and with the support of both governments, attempt to solve them and overcome obstacles. It has already been agreed that an Egyptian delegation of businessmen would visit Israel this December or in January 1990. Such a visit by an official delegation would indicate the seriousness of the intentions of the Egyptian side, and would get things rolling. [passage omitted]

Court Orders Reopening of Welfare Organization

TA1110142789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] The High Court of Justice has ordered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to permit the In'ash al-Usra organization to operate again at the end of the year. The 2-year closure order against the society, which is called the Palestine Welfare Organization, was issued 16 months ago after security forces claimed it was involved in hostile activity.

Justice Gavri'el Bakh said in handing down his decision that a 2-year closure order was unreasonable. He also said it was difficult not to believe that a long closure deviates from the dual aims of proper government and maintaining security.

Curfews, Violence, Strikes in Territories

Bethlehem Phone Links Cut

TA1110141489

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on the events in the territories on 10 October, as published in Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, MA'ARIV, and YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 October.

THE JERUSALEM POST, in a page 12 report by Joel Greenberg, states: "Phone links to Ramallah and the Bethlehem area have been cut for a week, apparently as part of security measures taken after leaflets were issued calling for an extended strike and stepped-up protests in the territories." The report goes on to say that "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would not confirm or explain the measure."

The report continues with details of yesterday's incidents in the territories: "In Hebron, soldiers shot and wounded an Arab motorist after he drove away from an

Army roadblock. The driver was wounded in the hand, and, according to Palestinians, a two-year-old was injured by glass fragments.

"A soldier suffered moderate injuries on Monday when he was hit by a rock thrown at his car near Luban al-Sharqiyah, south of Nabulus, military sources said. He was treated in a Jerusalem hospital. Palestinians reported that a settler was wounded in the head by a rock thrown at his car at the Dayr Sharaf junction near Nabulus and was evacuated by ambulance. A settler from Yizhar was wounded by a rock earlier this week and is in danger of losing an eye, settlers said.

"A nine-year-old Palestinian boy was wounded in the leg during clashes in Janin."

In another report on page 12 by David Rudge, it is reported that "two petrol bombs struck the side of an Egged bus near the village of Jatt in the Triangle last night and ignited, police reported. The driver stopped the empty bus and managed to douse the flames, which damaged the front of the bus."

In a pool report on page thirteen, YEDI'OT AHARONOT states: "An Arab youth was critically wounded yesterday, when an IDF patrol clashed with a group of masked individuals in the Qalandiyah refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. The youths were distributing leaflets containing instructions on the preparation of firebombs."

In a page A2 report by Yosi Levi and Yehuda Goren in MA'ARIV, it is reported that "three vehicles parked under a residential building in central Jerusalem were set on fire." The reports adds that "approximately 90 vehicles have been set on fire in the Jerusalem district since the beginning of 1989, most of the cases (80 percent) being against a nationalistic background."

In another MA'ARIV report on page A7 by Roni Sofer, it is stated that "the Beersheba District Court yesterday sentenced 18-year-old Jihad Najjar from Gaza to 30 years in prison, after he was convicted of the murder of a fellow detainee at the Negev Qezi'ot detention facility." The report adds that the defendant admitted to the murder, saying that he had suspected the victim of "collaborating with the authorities."

HA'ARETZ, in a page 2 report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er, reports that "according to Palestinian sources, 10 residents were wounded in the course of the 10 October riots in the Gaza Strip, including a 10 year old from Rafah, who sustained critical injuries."

Gaza Strip Strike Ends

TA1110132589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Text] The departure of workers from the Gaza Strip to Israel resumed fully this morning. Early this morning, with the conclusion of the 5-day general strike, thousands of vehicles packed with workers left for their work places in central Israel. Also this morning, the curfew imposed on al-Burayj refugee camp 5 days ago was lifted.

Studies resumed in some 250 schools in the Gaza Strip, with no extraordinary disturbances reported so far. Traffic is very lively on Gaza Strip roads.

The Civil Administration branch at the Erez area reported resuming the issuing of magnetic ID cards to the residents who have not obtained them so far. The ID cards enable the residents to leave for work in Israel.

Gaza Clashes Leave 5 Injured

TA1210134189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 89 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In the Gaza Strip, five people were reportedly wounded in clashes yesterday with troops, and one seriously injured youth from Khan Yunus was admitted to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Meanwhile, in Qalqilyah, a 15-year-old was wounded in the chest in a clash with troops, and later admitted to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, Palestinians said.

A curfew was clamped on the al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem after a petrol bomb was hurled from the camp at a vehicle travelling on the Jerusalem-Hebron highway, Palestinians reported. There were no casualties in the attack. Soldiers arrested about 20 pupils from the local school, which was ordered closed until further notice, according to the reports. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed reports of the curfew.

In Bayt Sahur, where the Civil Administration has been carrying out raids to break a tax revolt, at least four more residents were reported arrested. They are expected to be tried for refusal to pay taxes. The town remains a closed military area. [passage omitted]

Curfews remain in force on Nabulus and surrounding refugee camps, as well as on the Tulkarm refugee camp and Dhannabah, near Tulkarm. The IDF sealed two alleys in Nabulus from which petrol bombs were thrown at an army jeep on Yom Kippur, wounding three soldiers.

In Gaza, Civil Administration head, Brig.-Gen. Arye Ramot, met with five prominent figures to discuss the latest political developments. Palestinians said participants included Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, attorney Hatim Abu-Sha'ban, businessman As'ad al-Saftawi, businessman 'Isam al-Shawwa, and writer Zuhayr al-Ra'is.

1 Killed by IDF Gunfire

TA1210092189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] contingent was summoned to the vicinity of the new market in Nabulus as a result of stone-throwing incidents. When the force was passing through the 'Askar refugee camp, the soldiers heard the sound of gunfire inside the market. The troops raced to the scene and encountered three suspects, who began to flee. The soldiers ordered them to halt, but they refused to stop. The troops then fired into the air and later at the suspects' feet. Two of the Arabs were injured in the shooting. One of them was seriously wounded in the groin; he was treated on the spot but later died of his injuries. The second man was slightly wounded in the arm.

In another incident in Nabulus, the body of a young woman was discovered in Hittin Street in the casbah this morning. Local residents reported that she had been stabbed to death. The IDF and the police have launched investigations.

IDF Patrol Kills 'Terrorist'

TA1210102189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] A terrorist was killed in the security zone in southern Lebanon last night, during a clash with an IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] patrol. There were no casualties among our troops. An IDF patrol spotted a terrorist squad moving southwest of the village of Markaba in the Lebanese security zone's central sector.

Nabulus Curfew Lifted

TA1210132589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] lifted the curfew on Nabulus this morning. The curfew was imposed following an incident in which a firebomb was thrown at troops at the beginning of the week. The town had been declared a closed military zone.

A 3-year-old boy was shot and seriously wounded in the al-Shati' refugee camp near Gaza today. He was evacuated to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. From there, he was taken to the Tel Hashomer Medical Center. The IDF is investigating. In another incident in the Gaza Strip, a young man wearing a mask was wounded by IDF gunfire and another two youths were arrested.

Arab Youth Killed in Nabulus

TA1210172289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] An Arab youth died this afternoon in Nabulus when he was shot by soldiers during a chase after masked men. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a group of masked youths wearing black clothing hurled stones at Israeli vehicles in the Rafidiyah neighborhood of the town on the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road. Soldiers who arrived at the scene chased the youngsters and called on them to halt; when they failed to heed the calls, the soldiers fired at the youths' legs. The gunfire killed 'Amar al-Qaddumi. Two youths were wounded and were taken to the hospital.

A youth was shot and killed this morning at the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus during a chase after suspects. Our correspondent adds that 20 wanted youngsters were arrested by security forces in the village of Tammun in Samaria.

Janin Youth Killed

TA1210204189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] A Janin youth was killed tonight when he tried to throw a cinder block at a border policeman at short range. He was shot and killed. The youth was masked and wore black clothing.

Cabinet Lifts Import Ban, Reschedules Debts

JN1110164989 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Oct 89 pp 1, 16

[Excerpts] Amman—PETRA—The Cabinet held a meeting last night under Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister.

Later, Information and Culture Minister Nasuh al-Majali reported that the Cabinet had decided to lift the ban on 11 categories of commodities as of 1 January 1990. The move, which will permit the commodities to be imported, is designed to bring imports in line with current financial policies.

The minister said that additional imports of these commodities, after the ban is lifted, are expected to amount to only $30 million. The treasury's revenues from them will be about $25 million. The Kingdom's imports of these commodities reached about $160 million last year.

The minister added that the decision covers all types of vehicles used for transporting goods or passengers, television sets and their antennas, video cassette recorders, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, tiles, granite, marble, roof tiles, wall paper, furniture, chandeliers, microwave ovens, paper, and artificial fruit. He said custom tariffs on these commodities will be revised to limit their importation. [passage omitted]

The minister said that the Cabinet had approved an agreement with the Canadian Government rescheduling the debt installments due to have been paid from 1 July to 31 December 1989. Under the new arrangements, payment shall be in 10 equal half-yearly installments beginning on 30 September 1995. The agreement also reschedules the sums which were due to have been paid before 30 July 1989. Under the new arrangements, payment shall be in 10 equal half-yearly installments beginning on 30 September 1994.

The minister stated that the Cabinet had also authorized the Greater Amman Municipality to purchase laboratory equipment for testing foodstuffs at a cost of $700,000 exempt of duties and taxes.

Petra Bank Embezzlement Cases Sent to Court

JN1110213589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] Amman—The general military governor today ordered that the cases of embezzlement, misappropriation, waste, and manipulation of Petra Bank funds, as well as speculation in the Jordanian dinar and in shares and other cases, be referred to the military court for trial. Those cases referred to the military include those of anyone proved by interrogation to have carried out any of these crimes as original perpetrator, partner, mediator, or instigator—whether a Petra Bank employee, official, or client—or anyone proved to be responsible for any other crime that emerges as a result of interrogations or the trial of any defendant.

The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has stated that the measures adopted by the CBJ to boost the liquidity of the Petra Bank and the Jordan-Gulf Bank in accordance with the resolutions of the Economic Security Committee have achieved their objectives fully. He said that the funds of creditors in both national and foreign currencies enjoy full protection by the CBJ.

Ex-Bank Chief Denies Charges

JN1210201089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Dispatch from Randah Habib in Amman]

[Excerpt] In a telephone conversation with our radio, Ahmad al-Jalabi, former president of the Petra Bank, who is currently not in Jordan, denied having anything to do with what has been said in Amman; namely, that he was involved in embezzlement and the waste of funds during his management of the Petra Bank. He said that the funds borrowed from Petra Bank institutions and branches outside Jordan have been spent on investment projects in Jordan with the knowledge and the approval of the bank, the Jordanian Central Bank, and the company's controller.

Jordanian Finance Minister Basil Jardanah had announced that newly discovered facts concerning the Petra Bank accounts showed that institutions and individuals close to Al-Jalabi had borrowed $68 million from two financial institutions affiliated to the Petra Bank in Switzerland and from the Washington Petra Bank branch. The finance minister had also said that these funds were transferred out of Jordan without being recorded in the bank's files—on Al-Jalabi's personal instructions.

Al-Jalabi, who did not reveal his whereabaouts, said he is surprised at the general military governor's decision to refer these matters to the military court. [passage omitted]

Article Discusses Jordanian-Palestinian Ties

JN1010144489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 89 p 3

[Article by Nirmin Murad: "Jordanian-Palestinian Ties—the Core and the Evolution"]

[Text] Amman—The two men have held important public posts in the government and dealt with the future of Jordanians on the local scene and abroad. A foreign minister and an interior minister presented and debated Sunday [8 October] their assessments of the development of Jordanian-Palestinan relations and the effects of policies and measures on the Jordanian people in view of the bi-origins [as published] of the Kingdom's populations.

The debate, the first of its kind in Jordan, dealt specifically with the psychological and social effects of the Palestinian problem, Palestinian refugees and later Jordanian citizens, and the leaderships (of the now two

states), on the composition of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. [sentence as published]

A crowd of around 600 people filled a lecture room at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation to hear Sulayman 'Arar, a former interior minister, and Tahir-al-Masri, a former foreign minister, discuss what is definitely a "very sensitive issue" to many citizens of Jordan.

Al-Masri, who opened his presentation by pointing to the sensitivity of the issue, said that his argument would "come from my heart." He divided the development of the Palestinian problem and its relationship with Jordan into four stages, beginning at the onset of the 20th century at around 1917 until today following Jordan's decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the West Bank.

Al-Masri highlighted the Palestinian sense of insecurity and search for stability, which, he said, began with the Balfour Declaration in 1917 "when a series of forces and difficult situations affected a people who until now were living on their land and enjoying a high level of education."

The Balfour Declaration, according to Al-Masri, "promised the land to another people and never specified any allocation for Palestinans. It only discussed "minorities and others" while it mentioned Jews by name.

This brought about "a series of psychological interaction and instability among Palestinians." Al-Masri added that this declaration was followed by Jewish emigration into the land which resulted in conflicts and open clashes between Palestinians and Jews.

This first stage, according to Al-Masri, ended in 1948 when a Jewish state was established in Palestine and "a whole population was removed from its land and thrown into refugee camps which did not offer the basic foundations for decent living." This again escalated the tension and the sense of instability among Palestinians.

Al-Masri pointed out to the period between 1948 and 1967, when the West Bank was under Jordanian rule and, "a sense of unity between the two banks was established and the Palestinians in Jordan began to feel safe and secure."

The third stage, between 1967 and 1974, was described by Al-Masri as a stage of "mutual fear (Jordanian and Palestinians)." This stage, according to Al-Masri, witnessed the evolvement of the Palestinan national feeling which culminated in the Palestinians beginning to assume control of their destiny through the Rabat Arab summit resolutions.

From 1974 until the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1979 "there was a new stage in the relationship between the two nations which indicated a positive and correct route although there were remnants of tension."

Since 1974, Al-Masri said, "there have been plans and efforts to find a form for the relationship between the two sides." The basic factor in this relationship is a common feeling and agreement that this is "a strategic relationship which cannot be separated in any real terms."

In his own experience as foreign minister of Jordan, Al-Masri felt that "the Jordanian government was building its political philosophy on the basis that the Palestinians and the Jordanians are the most important elements in the Palestinian issue and if there was agreement between the two sides then there will be a chance for building an Arab agreement."

If this Arab agreement was reached, according to Al-Masri, then the Arab World could go to the rest of the world and say, "we have agreed on something and we want an international peace conference."

The attempts to reach a final vision of the relationship stumbled in 1983, but efforts continued until Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, Al-Masri said.

Al-Masri concluded that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship "is an eternal and integral relationship that cannot be separated regardless of the developments which would have to culminate in at least a confederation between the two sides after the liberation of the occupied lands."

'Arar opened his presentation by asking whether he should discuss the historical and geographical relationship, the relationship in modern times, or the effects of the 1948 war or the relationship from the period of unity between the two banks in 1967 and until today.

He pointed out that the historical facts could not be ignored and that the first fact was that Greater Syria is a demographic, geographical and historical union. "At that time there were no regional sentiments and until the 20th century they did not exist. Everyone was from Greater Syria."

He blamed the European invasion for creating what he described as "different entities."

Although the European occupation of parts of Greater Syria lasted for only 30 years, ending in 1948, "one could see some misunderstanding of Jordan and its role."

During this time, according to 'Arar, the Palestinian people fought great wars which also affected the Jordanians. "This is evident in the number of martyrs from Jordan."

After 1948, 'Arar said, people were looking for a saviour through political parties and several military coups took place in the Middle East.

The Nasirite Movement, which enjoyed great public support, contributed to the rift between the Palestinians and Jordanians since 'Abd-al-Nasir continuously attacked Arab leaders until the 1967 war when he recognised the need to reconcile with the reality of the Arab countries around him.

The 1967 war was followed by a period during which the Palestinian struggle was taking a more organised and self-dependent form "and chose Jordan as a starting point for its struggle, and we in Jordan welcomed this move."

But the negative aspect of this contact between the Palestinians and Jordanians was "the large numbers of armed men in the cities and villages. There was contact and then a clash. Until things turned out the way they did."

The outcome of these factors, according to 'Arar, resulted in:

—Growing regional Palestinian sentiments for the first time. The Palestinian people are Arabs who sing the achievements of Arabs and cannot be separated. The leadership was unable to coordinate this Arab sentiment with the need to highlight the Palestinian identity as a necessary step to prevent diluting the Palestinian identity. The Palestinian leadership was also unaware of the Jordanian people's feelings and based its actions on the Egyptian media which were hostile to Jordan at that time.

—Jordanian sentiments grew calling for a Jordanian identity. This sentiment was not deep-rooted and did not apply practically when it came to inter-marriage and intercultural interaction. This feeling was used by the enemy by posing projects such as "an alternate land for Palestinians in Jordan."

But, according to 'Arar, "the dignity of the Jordanians and the awareness of the Palestinians were always able to quickly ignore these malicious foreign projects."

'Arar explained that there were other factors which surfaced at that period which also contributed to a rift between Palestinians and Jordanians.

According to 'Arar these factors included:

—The Palestinians' apathy in government jobs in Jordan which led to a growing number of Palestinians looking for jobs in the Gulf countries; consequently, the Palestinian presence in these jobs was low.

—The larger Jordanian presence in government jobs led to what 'Arar described as a feeling among Jordanians that "We are the sons of this land and we should have priority in public jobs."

According to a study conducted by Zakariyah Mahadin, researcher at AL-RA'Y Arabic daily, out of 27 prime ministers in Jordan 12 were of Palestinian origin and seven out of 14 Parliament speakers were also of Palestinian origin. In the period between 1921 and 1989, there were 322 ministers; 166 were East Jordanians while 140 were of Palestinian origin, and 16 were from other Arab origins.

The study shows that out of the 140 ministers of Palestinian origin 57 were from Jerusalem, 46 were from Nabulus, 12 were from Ramallah, nine from Hebron, two from Tulkarm, one from Bethlehem and 14 from other cities in Palestine.

—The interests of the Jordanians and Palestinians differed. While Jordanians were looking to establish political parties and a Lower House of Parliament, Palestinians were primarily interested in the Palestinian issue and gave priority to this issue.

—Dual representation in conferences and seminars. According to 'Arar, situations have come about where a Jordanian delegation was represented by a Jordanian of Palestinian origin whose interest did not centre on Jordanian national interests. This representative, according 'Arar, reflected a Palestinian opinion which was already represented within a Palestinian delegation attending the same conference or seminar, "which caused embarassment among Jordanians."

Another contributing factor to the rift between the Jordanians and Palestinians, according to 'Arar, was that the Palestinian leadership was "haunted with fear that Jordan would take over its political role."

Two particular features, according to 'Arar, prevailed in the Palestinian leadership's relationship with Jordan:

—The doubt which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held for any Jordanian move.

—The inconsistency in the Jordanian official policies which are coordinated with the PLO.

'Arar concluded by pointing to the most important six facts governing the Palestinian-Jordanian relations:

—The Palestinian identity is a right which should be supported.
—The Jordanian identity is there and has to be supported.
—The Palestinian state is not a threat but a stage in the struggle to highlight the Palestinian identity.
—The Constitution should prevail and laws have to be applied to giving Palestinians public jobs.
—Punishment should be handed out to those who work on creating a rift between Jordanians and Palestinians.
—An effective parliament should be established and political parties should be allowed.

Both Al-Masri and 'Arar agreed that Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was "a wise political decision" which will help Palestinians highlight their identity and carry responsibility for their political strategy for liberation.

In answer to a question on whether the two speakers condone the government's decision to arrest 14 of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) members last week, 'Arar said: "Anyone who participates in an attack from outside the borders or within them is liable for arrest because there would be a reverse reaction from the enemy."

Al-Masri, also condoned the government's decision to arrest the PFLP members but added that "this type of military move at this time of the Palestinian uprising will not have the effect it requires and will only contribute to a deviation in purpose, since the Arab efforts now are centred around highlighting the Israeli atrocities and their violation of human rights."

In answer to a question on the effectiveness of Arab support for the Palestinian uprising, Al-Masri said: "The uprising does not need psychological or financial support, they want a united Arab position which calls for solving the Palestinian problem."

He explained that the effectiveness of the united Arab position to solve the Lebanese problem "is already showing positive results thus highlighting the power of such unity."

In answer to a question on the PLO's new-found political strategy, 'Arar said: "If the PLO has adopted this position without the support of the uprising then it would have been making a grave mistake but coupled with the intifadah, it has created a balance."

Damascus-Amman Train Service To Resume 12 Oct

JN0810150389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 89 p 22

[Text] Amman—PETRA—Train services between Amman and Damascus will resume as of 12 October at the rate of four trips from each city every month.

Muhammad Muhyi-al-din Kurayshan, director of the Jordanian Hijaz Railway Line, said an agreement to this effect was reached between the two countries' ministers of transportation and communications during meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian joint higher committee in Damascus last July. It was also decided that the simplest measures will be observed at the border posts.

Trains will leave Damascus at 0720 every Thursday and will leave Amman at 0800 every Friday.

Jordanian-Saudi Joint Committee Ends Work

JN0910200789 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Oct 89

[Text] The 2-day meetings of the eighth session of the Jordanian-Saudi joint economic committee ended at the Ministry of Industry and Trade this evening. The minutes of the committee meetings were signed for Jordan by Muhammad al-Saqqaf, Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general, and for the Saudi side by Usamah al-Faqif, Ministry of Finance and National Economy under secretary.

Science-Technology Accord Signed With Japan

JN0810080389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Jordan and Japan Saturday signed an agreement at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) renewing scientific and technological cooperation. According to the agreement, the Japanese government will grant the RSS Electronic Services and Training Centre additional equipment worth 50 million yens. The agreement also provides for dispatching experts and employees from the centre to Japan to undergo training. The agreement was signed by RSS President Dr. Hani al-Mulqi and Reita Ishii from the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Ishii arrived in Amman on Sept. 30 at the head of four-member delegation to discuss scopes of cooperation.

King Husayn Holds Talks, Lectures in Canada

WA131221

For reportage on the activities of King Husayn and his entourage during a visit to Canada, including his speech to Parliament and his lecture at Ottawa University, see the Canada section of the 13 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

RFL Reports on Kidnapping of Swiss Woman

NC1210191489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Citing official sources in Bern, the Swiss news agency reported that a young woman holding Swiss citizenship and working in Lebanon was abducted last Sunday by a group of gunmen in civilian clothes.

Further on Kidnapping

AU1210175289 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Bern, Oct 12 (AFP)—A young Swiss woman was kidnapped in northern Lebanon on Sunday by armed men in plain clothes, officials here were quoted as saying Thursday.

The officials, quoted by the Swiss news agency ATS, did not identify the woman.

Two representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Emanuel Christen, and Elio Erriquez, were kidnapped in Sidon, southern Lebanon, last Friday and have not been heard of since.

'Official Source' Denies Kidnapping

NC1310100189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] An official source on the International Committee of the Red Cross in the north has denied a report carried by some news agencies that a young female Swiss Red Cross official in Tripoli has been kidnapped. The source affirmed that all Swiss employees are performing their humanitarian task normally in the north.

General 'Awn Interviewed on Al-Ta'if Meetings

JN1210123389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 89 pp 7, 17

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn, head of the military government, by correspondents Jamal al-'Alawi and Muhammad al-Da'mah at B'abda Palace in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR: What is required of the al-Ta'if meetings, which are still in progress and said to be achieving positive results?

General 'Awn: The al-Ta'if meetings are being held on the basis of a framework worked out by the tripartite Arab committee. We have accepted this framework although we had some reservations about it. I am now completely cut off from the conclusions reached by the conferees in their discussions. I wish the al-Ta'if meetings success. The meetings themselves are no doubt important even if they were to produce incomplete results. Meetings define problems and their ramifications, and the methods to tackle them. It is not possible to reach a solution if problems and solutions are not discussed in a precise and comprehensive manner.

AL-DUSTUR: Observers say that Arab efforts were backed by international efforts to convene the al-Ta'if conference. What role must international efforts play to render the meetings a success?

General 'Awn: There is a determination to solve the Lebanese problem within the known framework. What is vague is the international support which has not yet been made clear. So, as long as this support is not clear, there will be no solution. Our issue is simple if we want a solution, and very complicated if we do not want a solution. Lebanon is an Arab homeland and a member of the United Nations and the Arab League with recognized borders. There are military interventions on its territory and also an Israeli occupation. On the basis of Lebanon's membership in the Arab League and the United Nations and its rights, we say to the military presence: Enough. Do not mix the internal Lebanese problem and the occupation problem, because occupation is something foreign to Lebanon and the internal problem is something that must be settled among the Lebanese themselves. If we cannot agree to end this issue, if we, as Lebanese communities coexisting in one homeland, cannot come to an understanding, and if nobody wants to recognize our fundamental rights and give them priority, this means permitting the foreign forces with their conflicting aims to interfere in the Lebanese issue and complicate internal solutions. We have never seen in human history a nation that built its institutions and established its borders under foreign influence. In all previous cases, foreign influence was removed first, then internal negotiations began among the various national communities to establish a common base. I am not criticizing, but our priorities are not clear in Lebanon. There is no solution, but an attempt to save time. We must first define the borders of the homeland and then deal with reform.

AL-DUSTUR: Do you still adhere, as you said in your earlier statements, to the condition of withdrawal before reforms?

General 'Awn: I do not say that the withdrawal is a condition—the matter is not personal; it is a condition to ensure success. I do not want personal gain. I want the homeland to win; I want to build institutions on certain laws and according to the changes decided by the Lebanese people on Lebanese soil.

Regrettably, the Lebanese people and land are no longer defined, especially with the existence of 450,000 or more displaced Lebanese inside Lebanon. There is an internal displacement movement in addition to migration.

When the Arab deterrent forces entered Lebanon in 1976—and they were indeed Arab deterrent forces—we accepted under Arab and international pressure. When the period of intervention expired, the withdrawal was not achieved. How, then, can we accept oral guarantees?

AL-DUSTUR: In light of the current efforts, do you describe the situation in Lebanon as a break in the fighting, the door to a solution, or the freezing of the crisis?

General 'Awn: There is an attempt to freeze the crisis, but no one can freeze the dynamism that we created, because the issue is now in the consciousness of all the Lebanese and the Arab people, and because we are holding political dialogue in Saudi Arabia. I do not want to elaborate, but I want to make it clear that the developments in Lebanon no longer concern General 'Awn alone but all the Lebanese people and the people who discuss the question and are directly affected by it. The Lebanese question is now characterized by direct, equal, and free dealings, divorced from personal interests.

AL-DUSTUR: There are expanded discussions on reforms at the al-Ta'if meetings. Do you have any comments about this?

General 'Awn: I personally believe that the deputies are able to handle this issue. As far as I am concerned, I have no conditions on reforms. What is taking place is a process of repairing a worn-out system. I want a radical change in a simple form that satisfies all the Lebanese, because they form religious social groups with distinctive characteristics. Each party wants to preserve its traits. We, however, have things in common. What is required, in my opinion, is a political system that guarantees equality and justice for all and preserves characteristics; that is, a mixture of decentralization concerning characteristics and centralization concerning the common values. This way we preserve the unity of the country, and because of the distinction, each party will seek to get the best that the others have. The fragile unity in the framework of the old system will continue to be fragile. I do not put what I want as a condition for national understanding, but I propose it as a plan for mature national discussion, because the homeland is a question of existence or nonexistence. Any solution that retains certain favoritism will keep the situation volatile. No one can guarantee that something won't happen in Lebanon that might hold up reforms at some point in the implementation of the Arab national reconciliation document; no one can guarantee that after the election of the president things will not come to a halt; and no one can guarantee that the national unity government can meet to discuss the subject of withdrawal in light of regional influences. In other words, booby-trapped solutions will not solve the Lebanese problem.

AL-DUSTUR: What are the aspects of the political system that you demand, and what is a realistic mechanism for implementation to enforce this system?

General 'Awn: According to the framework that I proposed, the political system must be based on a declaration that clarifies Lebanese rights—the Lebanese citizen's right to life, work, liberty, and equality. Proceeding from this legitimacy, a new constitution can be drawn up, or the old Constitution can be amended to conform with the declaration of Lebanese rights. In accordance with the new constitution, legislation should be drawn up to meet the citizens' social and religious needs. Then, we should establish the necessary administrative organization to enforce the laws. After that we will discuss the issue of participation and the distribution of power. The last point in my plan is the al-Ta'if meeting.

AL-DUSTUR: For a year Lebanon has lived without a president. Is it possible under the current circumstances to elect a new president for the Republic? What are the qualities of the next president?

General 'Awn: I wish that the reasons preventing the election of a president for Lebanon would be eliminated. We are awaiting the results of the al-Ta'if meetings, and we hope that the obstacles will be removed.

AL-DUSTUR: It has been reiterated in Lebanese circles that there are Arab and international contacts with Syria to eliminate the Syrian veto on General 'Awn so that he would be the next president of the Lebanese Republic.

General 'Awn: I have no knowledge on the subject. After all, I am not a candidate for the Presidency as some believe. There is nothing personal between myself and Syria regarding the Lebanese crisis.

AL DUSTUR: It is being reiterated in political and popular circles in West Beirut that General 'Awn's mistake is the sea operations room. What is the story?

General 'Awn: The sea operations room was established in 1984 according to a decision by the Rashid Karami government. Later, security upheavals took place resulting in the opening of two illegal ports in al-Awza'i and Khaldah. The sea operations room was originally established to "close" illegal ports. There were no ports in al-Awza'i and Khaldah when the room was established. In fact, the illegal ports were with the Lebanese Forces. At that time we closed down these ports, but the deterioration of security conditions and the government split led to the suspension of work in the sea operations room. The work was suspended following my own personal decision, because I am the leader of the Army and I was in charge of it until clashes took place with the Lebanese Forces on 14 February. We regained control over the illegal ports in so-called East Beirut; we took complete control over these ports, and, for this process to sound logical, we thought that the illegal ports in the western area should also be closed. This move met with popular and official approval, but apparently it was not announced because this move had an important effect on the Lebanese economy. The U.S. dollar equaled 100 Lebanese pounds. The country's revenues improved, and we opened the crossing points, which was a challenge for us. The money raised is not put in General 'Awn's safe, but in the Central Bank located in so-called West Beirut. Anyhow, there was nothing personal or factional about it. It was for the good of Lebanon. At that time, the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states were informed of the purpose and aim of the decision in the context of imposing international

navigation rules in Lebanese territorial waters. After that, the port of Beirut was bombarded for 3 days.

My line is a national Lebanese line. I was shocked on 28 September 1988 when three Muslim ministers in the government I formed tendered their resignation. I was talking to them on the telephone. President Amin al-Jumayyil was sitting here in my place. It was announced that the ministers resigned, that they did not recognize the constitutional government formed by presidential decree. I wanted an official relationship between the Syrian and Lebanese Governments. I wanted brotherly, equitable ties. I wanted Lebanese-Syrian interests developed within a framework of understanding in order to have closer and closer relations. Why do we not benefit from the abortive attempts at European unity? When De Gaulle began the phase of dialogue and interests, Europe began its march toward unity. The customs barriers will be lifted next year.

AL-DUSTUR: Forming a government of the same color is in violation of the Lebanese Constitution. What were the criteria you used when you formed the military government?

General 'Awn: On the contrary, from the political standpoint, the military government was composed of the military council, which was formed by the previous government of Rashid Karami. The latter continued under Salim al-Huss. Therefore, the military government has a political capacity. The military council has both the sectarian as well as political capacities and meets under my chairmanship. President al-Jumayyil's presidency reached a dead end, and whether it is headed by a Christian or Muslim prime minister and in the absence of the president, the transitional government cannot take action unless everybody gives his approval because it represents the executive power, which I am heading in my capacity as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the highest ranking officer in the group. Any cabinet member has the veto right in any voting. Therefore, it is wrong to claim that we robbed anyone of their rights. We are a transitional government that endeavors to implement the law and elect a president. The Muslims' rights in the military government continues to be preserved and when the Muslim ministers return to participate in the government, we will begin arrangements to elect a president.

AL-DUSTUR: Was the U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon intended to be a political maneuver or for certain regional reasons?

General 'Awn: I do not know the background for the U.S. withdrawal from Lebanon but there are covert reasons because the events that took place were taken as a justification. However, I assert now that we exist because of our self-strength and because we are defending our existence. The U.S. role was a negative one. The positive U.S. effect disappeared long ago. I was not surprised by the U.S. withdrawal.

On the Suq al-Gharb battle, 'Awn said: Suq al-Gharb is an important military position and its preservation or fall will lead to important political results because it opens other doors in the Lebanese crisis. We have been defending it since 1983 because I think that the fall of Suq al-Gharb means the partition of Lebanon.

AL-DUSTUR: What was the French contribution to keeping the Suq al-Gharb battle confined to certain limits?

General 'Awn: The French role did not contribute anything.

Junblatt Criticizes Al-Ta'if Negotiations

NC1210200589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has stated that we have returned to the situation that prevailed in 1975. He said he feared that the al-Ta'if talks would only lead to marginal reforms. He is not convinced about these talks and believes that they will only lead to a truce, he declared. The discussions would lead to an ambiguous agreement that would satisfy all parties except the Druze and the national forces, he asserted.

In a statement to REUTER, Junblatt said: You are asking the old regime to rejuvenate itself, which is ridiculous. He added: You cannot expect an old parliament to establish a new regime. We need a constituent assembly, he asserted. He went on to say: We will not accept the al-Ta'if talks but we will not impede them. He pointed out that the reforms on which agreement has been reached will not remedy the basic problems of the Druze. Nothing has been mentioned about the Senate, or about the Army and its size, role, or political orientation, he declared. He said that the Maronites have got what they wanted; that is, sufficient time to reorganize their forces and put the Syrians in Lebanon in a difficult situation. He declared that most of the Army is in under Maronite control. We need an Army that is not hostile to Syria, he said.

Junblatt was in touch with Deputy Tawfiq 'Assaf, who is in al-Ta'if, today. They discussed the results of the deputies' meetings.

'Awn Stresses 'War of Liberation' Continues

NC1210190389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Speech by General Michel 'Awn before a "demonstration by bank employees" on 12 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] It seems that everyone has forgotten that a war has been started in Lebanon to liberate the land and the will—to liberate the Lebanese land from occupation and to liberate the Lebanese will from mortgage. It seems

that everyone has forgotten this war. They are negotiating about things unrelated to this war, resulting in the al-Ta'if meeting.

Therefore, it is necessary to emphasize that the purpose of the al-Ta'if conference is not to reform an existing political system. We can carry out these reforms on Lebanese territory when Lebanon becomes free of the usurpers' rule and when the occupiers no longer impose their will. [applause] We want a drastic reform of the system. We want to change an obsolete system and not repair it as they are trying to do in al-Ta'if.

Our demands for reform are much greater than what is now being discussed. However, a homeland cannot be rebuilt while under occupation. Anything achieved under the auspices of occupation can only serve the aims of the occupiers. What the deputies are doing is wrong, under the wrong auspices of incorrect and non-Lebanese goals. What is required now, before it is too late, is that they remember that the goal of the al-Ta'if meeting is to regain the usurped rights and not to negotiate over sovereignty. Sovereignty has been usurped and must be restored. There must be no negotiation on it.

They talk about reform and they say they have not yet reached the stage of negotiating sovereignty. Let the deputies understand, and let those who are sponsoring this meeting realize that sovereignty and independence are not negotiable. Either they exist or they do not. [applause] Let those who decide on anything else implement it by themselves. We tell them that this does not concern us. Either there is reform in a free land in which free people live or there is nothing of the sort.

I hope everyone realizes this fact and always remembers that a war of liberation was begun in Lebanon for the sake of this goal. This war continues and will continue to achieve this goal. It will not stop because of a meeting attempting to block these objectives. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

Cabinet Meets Under 'Awn To Discuss Developments

NC1310080889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under General Michel 'Awn at 0930 today to discuss the results of the al-Ta'if meetings and the concomitant international and Arab contacts.

Administrative Affairs Meeting Ends

NC1310110689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers meeting chaired by General Michel 'Awn, which began at 0930, ended at 1230 today.

Minister Edgar Ma'luf said the discussions dealt with the general situation and administrative affairs. [passage omitted]

Source Cited on Amendment of 'Withdrawal Clause'

NC1210170289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Well-informed sources have reported that an agreement was reached during recent consultations to amend the withdrawal clause in the Arab reconciliation document as follows:

The first phase of a Syrian withdrawal is to take place before the presidential elections with the second phase following the elections. The Arab tripartite committee is to guarantee the implementation of the third and final phase of the Syrian withdrawal in consultation with the Arab countries and according to the positions taken by Washington, Moscow, and Paris.

Hizballah on Islamic Resistance Attack on SLA

LD1210223489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The revolutionary Lebanese Hizballah Movement, in a statement published today, praised the attack launched on Monday night by the Islamic Resistance fighters against the usurper Lahd forces in the village of (Kafr Hammil), and described such anti-Zionist activity as the best response to the recent suspicious activities and threats by the Zionist officials based on the prolonging of the southern Lebanon's occupation.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, this statement reiterates that the Islamic Resistance, through courageous operations and their jihad against the enemy, will continue until the Zionist regime's total annihilation. Also, the Lebanese 'ulema hailed the Islamic Resistance Movement's activities against the leaders of the usurper Lahd army in the village of (Kafr Hammil), and described it as the most potent response to the al-Ta'if charade, denouncing the United States as the agent responsible for the reformation of the tribal system in Lebanon.

Cease-Fire Violations Reported in Mountain Area

NC1110172489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Oct 89

[Text] There has been a limited violation of the cease-fire in the mountain region. A few rounds of machinegun fire were directed at Army positions in Suq al-Gharb this evening.

In another development, Israeli military aircraft flew over the North at medium altitude at around noon today.

[(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1630 GMT on 11 October reports: "The Al-Yarzah gangs renewed their violations of the cease-fire this afternoon. These gangs directed mortar and machinegun fire at nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh from their opposite positions at approximately 1800."]

Fighting Erupts in Ba'labakk; Casualties Noted

NC1310111989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Biqa' has reported that clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets have been raging between the Shuqayr and Mushayk clans in Ba'labakk since 1300 today. According to initial reports, the fighting has so far left four people dead and seven injured. Two houses have also been destroyed. Our correspondent pointed out that the clashes were sparked off by a family dispute, noting that intensive contacts are being held to stop the fighting.

Palestinian Group Says Fighter Killed in Clash

NC1210174089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said today that a unit from the martyr Abu-al-Walid group conducted an operation between the villages of Tallusah and Markaba. In a statement, the DFLP announced the martyrdom of resistance fighter Majdi Sami Battuni during the 30-minute clash. Following the engagement, the unit returned to its base. The DFLP stressed that the armed struggle will continue to defeat the Egyptian 10-point maneuver, the Shamir plan, and the pressures to deny Palestinian rights.

Israelis Reportedly 'on Maximun Alert' in South

NC1310071189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, the occupation forces and their border agent militias were placed on maximum alert yesterday. The Zionist forces brought fresh reinforcements including scores of armored cars to back up their positions along the border strip.

Intensive movements and helicopter overflights were monitored in Hasbayya, Shab'a, Marj 'Uyun, and the ridges of Mount Hermon. The same reports noted that the occupation forces instituted patrols in various areas of the border strip.

In a similar development, security sources said that the occupation forces deployed 50 Merkava tanks on Jabal al-Dahr.

Resistance Reports Clash With 'Zionist' Force

NC1210133689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The national resistance fighters this morning detonated an explosive charge near the Zummarayya crossing which leads into the security crossing, injuring two Lahd militiamen. Afterward, Lahd militia began combing and search operations in the nearby areas and villages. This militia also shelled Maydun, the vicinity of Birkat Jabbur, and the banks of the al-Litani River.

In another development, the Islamic resistance today issued a statement saying that a Zionist force attempted to advance on Jabal Safi at 1120 today. Resistance men confronted the force and fierce clashes ensued in which the attacking force suffered considerable losses.

The Islamic resistance said that the Zionist force later retreated under a cover of artillery shelling which encompassed Jba', 'Ayn Bu-Siwar, and Jabal Safi. The Islamic resistance retaliated by shelling the enemy positions in Kafr Huna. The Islamic resistance also said that the occupation forces shelled Zibqin this morning, causing damage to the town's buildings.

Al-Asad Receives Mauritanian Minister, Message

JN1210225489 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] At 1730 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mauritanian Mines and Industry Minister Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou. The meeting was attended by Industry Minister Antoine Jubran, and Mauritanian Ambassador to Damascus Mohamed Fadel Ould Bedah.

Ould Jiddo conveyed a message from Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Mauritanian president, to his excellency the president. His excellency the president asked the Mauritanian minister to convey his reply. Their talks centered on the situation in the Arab Maghreb and the Middle East.

PFLP's Habash Discusses Threats to Intifadah

JN1210222389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Oct 89

[From the "Spotlight" feature carried within the Palestine Broadcast program]

[Text] In his news conference, Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said: The Palestinian intifadah, with its giant masses, was able to do enough to wake the conscience of the world from its 40-year slumber and spill a river of the dark youths' blood. Indeed, the number of martyrs has exceeded 800, the wounded more than 58,000, and the number of Palestinians held in detention is about 73,000. After Dr Habash spoke about the conspiracies to abort the intifadah, he said: Now the PLO must clearly announce its categorical and decisive rejection of the idea of holding direct negotiations, as well as other suspect alternatives. What Dr George Habash said goes hand in hand with what Dr Edward Sa'id said a few days ago, even though each proceeds from different basic visions, or so it is believed.

The vast majority of our people's masses are in agreement with what both Dr Habash and Dr Sa'id said. Indeed, our people's masses go further than that and wonder: Is it not true that the Palestinian national effort must be developed outside the occupied land? Must this not be done to constitute practical and tangible support for the intifadah inside the occupied land? And must we not support the intifadah whether in confronting the Zionist enemy or the forces that support that enemy, among which are those Zionist criminal elements which do not hesitate to defend the enemy's crimes at various world forums? It is as if these elements view the crimes committed by the enemy as a source of pride and delight. Is it not imperative to apply the principle of "we befriend whoever befriends us, and are hostile to whoever is hostile to us" when dealing with other world powers—great or small—in light of their attitude toward our people's intifadah and demands?

If our people apply the death penalty against collaborators inside the territories, how can some people outside the occupied territories allow themselves to employ their own services—on which they spend funds granted by the brothers—to serve the security services affiliated to this imperialist state or that state, and then speak openly about it in an attempt to win the satisfaction of such a state? Is it not what they are doing a disgrace?

The deviationist's conduct has reached a point where action is required to remove all obstacles which hamper the support provided by our people and nation outside the homeland for our people's intifadah inside the homeland.

Editorial Links Michel 'Awn to 'Zionist Scheme'

JN1310071989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Oct 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH reviews the obstacles facing Lebanon and Syria's efforts to remove them, thereby confirming its concern for Lebanon's Arab affiliation. The newspaper refers to what President Hafiz al-Asad asserted in this regard during the Casablanca summit about Syria's concern for Lebanon and its affiliation.

Al-BA'TH says: Syria has reinforced the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee and provided it with the means to succeed in spite of the obstacles placed by the enemies of Lebanon and Arabism before the committee.

The newspaper adds: Now, following the inception of hope and optimism, Michel 'Awn, who leads the forces of obstruction and hindrance, came out with his rejection of the tripartite committee's Arab effort, which is supported by the Lebanese deputies.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH asserts: Michel 'Awn is only implementing a resolution and an order given to him by the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs. This puts the whole people of Lebanon, along with all Arabs concerned for its Arabism, in direct confrontation with the Zionist scheme which targets everything Lebanese—the scheme which Michel 'Awn has assumed the task of executing.

Afghanistan

Captured 'Arabs' Participate in News Conference

LD1210202189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Three subjects of Arab countries who entered the Republic of Afghanistan illegally and were captured some time ago by the country's security forces, took part today in a news conference which was held with the participation of an Islamic delegation from the various countries participating in the conference on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birth anniversary, may peace be upon him. The captured Arabs spoke about their destructive activities and about the assistance from the Saudi Wahhabis to the armed extremists groups, in order to continue war and bloodshed in the country.

At this news conference, which was held in the ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel, the press affairs head of the Foreign Affairs Ministry briefed the conference participants on the warmongering interference by the Saudi Wahhabis, Pakistani militarists, and the United States in our country's internal affairs.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section correspondent reports that Zahir 'Ali, a citizen of Saudi Arabia; Saba, from Iraq; and Muhammad Wahil, from Jordan, replied to the questions from the news conference participants. They said that they entered this country illegally on the instructions of the Saudi Wahhabis, in order to cooperate with the extremists and to intensify war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. They spoke about plans and conspiracies against the Republic of Afghanistan by the Saudi Wahhabis, extremists and their international patrons. They gave information about the role and direct participation of the Saudi Wahhabis in the continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, and about the internicine clashes and crimes of the extremists.

At the end of the news conference the delegations of the countries participating in the conference of the Prophet Muhammad's birth anniversary, may peace be upon him, visited the exhibition of arms and ammunition which have been seized from the extremists.

Rebel Leader Rabbani Favors Talks With USSR

NC1210153989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 89 pp 1, 5

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] Tehran—A senior Afghan Mujahidin leader yesterday disapproved the idea of holding a four-party conference on the Afghan issue and proposed that the Mujahidin "are ready for face-to-face talks with the Soviet Union."

Interim Government Minister of Reconstruction Burhanuddin Rabbani in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that the Mujahidin are ready to talk with the Soviet Union directly plus Iran and Pakistan present as observers.

Rabbani was comenting on the four-party conference discussing the Afghan issue. According to the proposal aired in the media Iran, Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the Mujahidin were supposed to hold the parleys for the solution to the Afghan problem....

Jamiyat-e Eslami leader said, "If we sit with the Soviet Union in the four-party parleys it will mean that we have to have equal rights for the vote along with the Moscow regime which is not just."

"Moreover," Rabbani said, "we do not accept the Soviet Union as mediator." He said the Mujahidin are ready to have face-to-face talks with the Soviet Union along with Iran and Pakistan as observers.

"For the preparation of such parleys the Soviets may use the good offies of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said and pointed out that "the Soviets are always tough in their talks especially when they are to give concessions to the other party."

"The Soviets can use the good offices of Iran in proposals which they shy away from giving to us directly," he said.

"Iran enjoys the confidence of the Mujahidin as well as of the Soviet Union," Rabbani said.

Rabbani is here to attend the second seminar on Afghanistan organized by the Institute for Political and International Studies of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Several delegations from Pakistan and other countries are here to participate in the seminar. The president of the Mujahidin Interim Government, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi is heading an 87-member delegation.

Rabbani said the preliminary talks with the eight-party alliance based in Iran are continuing for the greater alliance.

"We hope favorable results will come out and we will go back to Peshawar with certain concrete proposals from our brothers in Iran," Rabbani said.

GDR's Honecker Sends Message of Support

LD1210091789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 11, BAKHTAR—I realized your concern on the dangers, the Afghan people and peace and security in the Southwest Asia are faced with, because the Geneva accords are not observed by all sides concerned.

Says the message of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and State Council chairman of the German

Democratic Republic in reply to the message of President Najibullah sent earlier to Berlin.

I read with much care your message demanding support to the efforts and strivings of the Repubic of Afghanistan (RA) aimed at ending war and disputes through dialogue and negotiations, the message adds.

I assure you that in present-day complicated situation of your country, the GDR decisively support your efforts and is on your side. All-sided peace efforts of the RA Government for the ensurance of peace, are being followed with much interest in the GDR. The GDR also strives for the peaceful solution of the issues around and in Afghanistan. The GDR support Afghanistan as an independent, democratic and non-aligned state, the message stresses.

The GDR as in the past supports every initiative aimed at stopping bloodshed in Afghanistan. We are continuing our efforts for encouraging all sides concerned to fully observe their obligations vis-a-vis the Geneva accords. Availing this opportunity I once again assure you on the full solidarity of the people of the GDR, the message emphasizes.

Khowst, Nangarhar Military Actions Detailed

LD1210145589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst Major District are engaged in strengthening their defensive positions and carrying out their patriotic and national tasks with high combat readiness and morale. In the course of the last 2 days, Pakistani militarists, armed extremists and Saudi Wahhabis jointly attacked the Torghar, Gorboz, Yaqubi, Zazi Maydan, Khowst city and parts of Gardez city with heavy weapons. A number of residences were destroyed. One member of the Armed Forces was martyred, one was wounded, and three local people were martyred. In response, today, the resistance positions of the warmongers were brought under shattering artillery blows, in which 40 members of the enemy were ousted from combat ranks.

Another report states that units and companies of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar are engaged in engineering consolidation work, and some units have carried out mopping-up and ambush operations in the Shamshapur and Sorkh Rud regions. During the last 2 days, the Pakistani linked armed extremists launched rocket missiles against some security posts near Samar Kheyl and Behsud. In response, the enemy positions were brought under shattering artillery blows today, as a result of which 70 memebrs of the enemy forces were taken out of combat ranks. Three missile units, one mortar, three recoilless guns, 5 rocket launchers, two weapons and ammunition caches, and three vehicles carrying enemy weapons were destroyed. Some 13 missiles, 15 rocket launchers, 6 mortar shells, and 5 boxes of assorted ammunition were seized.

According to another report the warmongers fired heavy weapons against some security posts around Herat city during the last 2 days. The units and companies today brought under artillery fire an enemy position in one area of the Balamorghab District, as a result of which losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Bangladesh

Ershad Returns From 4-Day Visit to Philippines

BK1210134189 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpts] President Ershad returned home on Thursday [12 October] afternoon from Manila after a 4-day state visit to the Philippines. He was accompanied by First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad. Vice President Moudud Ahmed received the president at the Zia International Airport. [passage omitted]

A joint statement issued at the end of the state visit of the Bangladeshi president to the Philippines says that President Ershad and the president of the Philippines, Mrs Corazon Aquino, held discussions on a wide range of subjects covering bilateral, regional, and international issues. The two presidents emphasized the traditional ties of geography, history, and culture between the two countries. They noted that the relations between Bangladesh and the Philippines have developed in an excellent manner and that the present visit of President Ershad was a demonstration of the abiding friendship, goodwill, and understanding that characterized Bangladesh-Philippines relations.

The two leaders agreed on the need for exchange of visits and noted that this would further strengthen the friendship and goodwill between the two countries and help broaden the basis of cooperation between them. The two leaders noted that there was scope for expansion of cultural and technical cooperation as well as trade and economic cooperation, including joint ventures, and that efforts should be made from both sides to promote closer cooperation in these fields.

The two presidents expressed satisfaction over the agreement by their respective governments to conclude an agreement on economic and technical cooperation and an agreement on merchant shipping.

President Ershad reiterated the position of Bangladesh that the southern Philippines problem is an internal affair of the Philippines and should be solved within the context of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines. The Bangladesh side noted with appreciation the Philippines Government's commitment to implement the Tripoli agreement. President Ershad briefed President Aquino on Bangladeshi efforts to mobilize international action aimed at finding a permanent solution to the perennial problem of flood and other natural disasters of Bangladesh.

Commentary Views Relations With Philippines

BK1010160789 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh-Philippines relations based on sound footing are going to be broad-based with both sides showing abundance of goodwill, understanding, and urge for extended cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. President Ershad, who was accorded a red-carpet welcome in Manila, has been assured of continued close friendship and mutual help by Philippines President Corazon Aquino. In essence, the visit augurs well for strengthening the relations that exist between the two Asian nations, and in his banquet speech, President Ershad just reciprocated the sentiments expressed by Corazon Aquino.

It is heartening that there was deep appreciation for the quality of leadership in Bangladesh who extended unqualified support to the Philippines on vital issues in different forums. Besides, the Philippines values our strides in the socioeconomic arena as well as the courage and fortitude shown by Bangladeshi people during insurmountable odds.

In the recent nonaligned summit, the bold and forthright exposition by our president of vital problems affecting mankind such as environment, external debt, international development strategy, food and agriculture, and also combating natural disasters drew wide applause from President Aquino. In such a pleasant backdrop, both the presidents agreed on broader cooperation and encompassing areas such as economic, technical, maritime, aviation, and cultural sectors. The areas were identified after careful consideration and four agreements have been signed, institutionalizing collaboration in those fields.

On the international scene, both Bangladesh and the Philippines have a common stake in so far as development efforts and debt settlement are concerned.

President Aquino underscored the need for continued commitment and cooperation in (?developing) a constructive North-South dialogue and intensified South-South cooperation. In the same vein, Bangladesh president was emphatic on balanced economic development of all countries of the world and to that end he suggested creation of more equitable and just economic order. Both these countries of the Third World are striving for attaining tangible level of economic (?progress) so that the quality of life of respective people improves substantially. It must be clearly understood that economic and social transformation is always difficult as it involves alleviation of the plight of the poor masses in a society having to grapple with economic limitations. Therefore, President Ershad's stress on greater cooperation between two Asian groupings, namely SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and ASEAN of which the Philippines is a member was timely, no doubt.

In the modern day context, the whole world has shrunk and no nation, however big, could stick to [words indistinct] policy. The thinking of one president was just reverberated [as heard] in the utterance of the other and both the presidents should play a meaningful role in forging better SAARC-ASEAN cooperation aiming at collective well-being of the people of the Asian countries by way of interregional cooperation as mooted by President Ershad.

Yet another subject that engaged the attention of both the leaders is the environment and natural disaster which have by now become a subject of international concern. Pollution of the environment due to greenhouse effect has already brought in uneasy effects on the atmosphere with still graver consequences awaiting. Like Bangladesh, the Philippines is also subjected to vagaries of nature. As such agreements on broader collaboration between the two countries would certainly augur well for the people of Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Paper Backs Regional Nuclear Ban, Peace Efforts

BK0510030689 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "Peace in South Asia"]

[Text] While it has been the common belief among all observers in South Asia that Bangladesh and Pakistan shared identical positions on most regional and international issues, it was good to hear both President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto underscore the commonality of interests of the two countries in their speeches delivered at the official banquet held on Sunday night.

These interests cover a wide range of issues, from such regional conflicts as Cambodia and Afghanistan to international concerns like disarmament and apartheid in South Africa.

In this context, President Ershad spoke for the entire nation in lending this country's support to Pakistan's call for the establishment of a nuclear free zone in South Asia and in reiterating his government's "total support" to disarmament. On both these issues, President Ershad has spoken before, in the same vein, from regional and international forums. Nevertheless, it was important to say so again on this significant occasion.

Over the years, the dramatic changes in the relations of the two superpowers, the Untied States and the Soviet Union, have brought about a significant reduction in the arms race, resulting in the lowering of tension and almost a virtual end of the cold war. In many ways, the world has entered a new era altogether—an era in which peaceful cooperation among nations has been steadily gaining new momentum. Unfortunately, this new mood in the international scene is yet to be reflected, in full measure, in the relations among countries in South Asia. Here, in this region, one country has already acquired the dubious distinction of being a nuclear power and

another is said to process the nuclear capability. True, both are disclaiming their nuclear ambitions and, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the international community has accepted these disclaimers. It would have been uncharitable not to do so. Unfortunately, the continuing build-up in conventional weapons presents another scenario, one that is eating up vast resources.

We sincerely believe that both Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Prime Minister Bhutto, the leaders of the militarily strongest nations of South Asia, are genuinely serious about calling a halt to the arms race between their two countries. In this respect, the agreement between India and Pakistan against attacks on each other's nuclear facilities, which President Ershad has welcomed, is a step in the right direction. But the process of reducing tension between New Delhi and Islamabad should not stop with this agreement. More needs to be done. Hence, the proposal by Pakistan for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia is both timely and forward looking. It deserves careful consideration—indeed acceptance, if we may say so—by all countries in South Asia.

The concern of Bangladesh which has neither the interest nor the capability of diverting its scarce resources to the arms race lies in promoting a climate of peace and stability in the whole of South Asia, a climate in which this country can work together with its neighbours in changing the lot of the common people. We like to think that this message has been heard, loud and clear, by our distinguished visitor from Pakistan.

Paper Views Role of Muslims in Indian Elections

BK0210150189 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Sep 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Muslims in Indian Poll"]

[Text] The stage is now virtually set for what a news report recently predicted as the "roughest election" ever to be held in India. The stakes are high, perhaps higher than they have ever been in any Indian poll. This is particularly so for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who must demonstrate that he has the capacity to win purely on the basis of his own performance. This was not the case in 1984 when he attracted overwhelming sympathy votes as the son of a murdered Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. This time, he stands or falls on his own record.

The scene is dominated by two main contending parties, the Congress and the Janata Dal-National Front coalition of left, centrist and right forces. Behind what once looked like an improbable coalition lies the shared desire of all opposition parties to topple the Congress and oust Mr Gandhi. The coalition's main election cry centres on alleged scandal relating to the government's arms deal with the Bofors. The front's assumption that it has the winning card in its hand may well be true, provided it can also offer a meaningful socio-economic agenda to match the ruling party's programme for rural development, a programme that appeals to the overwhelming majority of Indian voters. Then, as the campaign gathers momentum, both sides will face the intensity of other problems which cut across party loyalties, such as regionalism, linguism, communalism and casteism.

It is in this context that the role of Indian Muslims constituting over 11 per cent of the total population, with heavy concentrations in certain areas in northern India, assumes significance.

A national convention of Indian Muslims, held recently in New Delhi, has tentatively drawn up a strategy which offers two options: One is to launch a national party to act as a lobby to protect the interest of minority groups, and the other is to issue a call for support to a political party or alliance which can best protect the interest of Muslims.

The noted Muslim leader, Shahabuddin, who has played a leading role at the convention is of the view that there cannot be a separate political party for Muslims in India. It can never form a government and can only get a handful of members elected to the parliament from its own platform.

Concerned as they are about rising communalism among the majority community, often described as the "Hindu wave", Muslim leaders in India see the need for giving their community a new clout on the election scene. Herein lies the rationale for the plea of Mr Shahabuddin for unity among the Muslims and for creating a pressure group that cuts across party lines. This way, the theory goes, Muslims can gain the best advantage in constituencies where they are numerically strong. In short, they will constitute a power broker, willing to pledge their support to the highest bidder.

While the secular forces in India should welcome the New Delhi convention's tacit rejection of the proposal for forming a separate new party for Muslims in the country, for that would surely be to challenge of Hindu communalism by Muslim communalism, one would still wonder if the "lobby theory" would really be a progressive step. True, it would give Muslims advantages in some constituencies. On the other hand, it could strengthen the separateness of the community as a whole from the mainstream politics and isolate it from parties and groupings which want to fight the election on the basis of socio-economic programmes designed to serve the interests of the broad masses, regardless of caste, religion or creed. And, of course, it would be a disaster if the so-called lobby happens to be on the losing side. There is still time for Muslim leaders of India to ponder their options with care and objectivity and, above all, from a national perspective.

India

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC's Wu Xueqian

Urges Resolution of Border Issue

BK1310012489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1949 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12 (AFP)—China called Thursday [12 October] for an early resolution of the border controversy with India and promised that improved Sino-Indian relations would not come at the expense of other regional nations' interests.

China's Vice Premier Wu Xueqian stressed that Beijing "sincerely" hoped for an early settlement of the border issue, which he said "is a legacy of the past."

A fair and reasonable accord on the dispute, which led India and China to a war in 1962, was indeed in the interests of their peoples, but its significance was bound to go far beyond, Mr. Wu said at a dinner for him given by his Indian counterpart, P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"So long as our two sides make concerted efforts we will be able to push Sino-Indian relations to a new high," Mr. Wu said.

Mr. Wu, who arrived Wednesday on a week-long official visit, had an round of talks with Mr. Rao earlier. The vice premier, the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit India since 1981, is to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Friday.

Mr. Wu said China hoped that all countries of the region would treat one another as equals and live in peace on the basis of the five principles of co-existence. Improved Sino-Indian ties would in no way affect the interests of other South Asian states, he assured.

Mr. Rao expressed the hope that India and China would be able to initiate "concrete and substantive" discussions in 1990, apparently after a new government takes over in New Delhi following December's general elections.

He said Mr. Gandhi's visit to China in December 1988, the first by an Indian premier in 34 years, had provided an occasion to put behind what he called a legacy of mistrust and suspicion between the two countries.

Mr. Rao did not directly mention the border controversy, the basic irritant in the bilateral ties.

Earlier, at the talks, Mr. Wu and Mr. Rao agreed that Sino-Indian relations had improved despite the nagging border controversy, involving some 130,000 square kilometres (52,000 square miles) of Himalayan territory.

An Indian Government spokesman said Mr. Wu expressed happiness in the "improvement and development" of relations in recent months.

"The momentum needs to be maintained and developed on the basis of the principles of 'pancasila' (the five points of peaceful co-existence)," the External Affairs Ministry spokesman quoted Mr. Wu as saying.

According to the Indian official, Mr. Wu "appreciated" India's stand on the issue of Tibet, where Beijing imposed martial law in March after violent pro-freedom protests flared. India, home to some 100,000 Tibetan exiles and their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, treats Tibet as a Chinese autonomous region and considers events there as part of Beijing's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, some 15 Tibetan women carrying babies staged a demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy to protest Mr. Wu's visit. The protestors, chanting anti-Chinese and pro-Dalai Lama slogans, briefly scuffled with police before being taken away in waiting police vehicles. The Tibetans gave reporters copies of an open letter, written by the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies (parliament in exile), urging Beijing to take steps to "resolve the Tibetan issue."

Mr. Wu began the second day of his visit with a visit to the mausoleum of the Indian independence hero, Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, where Mr. Wu placed a wreath, witnesses said. The Chinese leader leaves for the southern city of Bangalore on Saturday to begin a tour of Indian development projects that will also take him to Bombay.

Stronger Relations Envisioned

BK1310043689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] India and China have reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their bilateral relations. This was stated during the official talks between the visiting Chinese premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, and the minister for external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. Both the leaders felt that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December last year has given impetus to bilateral relations and this (?tendency) has to be stepped up further on the basis of pancasila [five principles of peaceful coexistence]. The two sides expressed a view that there are fresh opportunities for the countries to work together in various fields.

Mr Narasimha Rao, who led the Indian delegation, said that both the countries have rich historical background and the contacts between the people should be increased further. On the question of boundary, he stressed the need to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas. On Tibet, Mr Rao referred to India's traditionally principled position, which has been reiterated by Mr Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to China.

Expressing happiness over the outcome of the talks, Mr Wu Xueqian said there is good scope for the development of economic relations between the two countries. He appreciated India's (?best) attitude on the question of Tibet. On the boundary question, he expressed hopes of resolving it amicably.

Giving his assessment of the international situation, the Chinese leader said that the general situation is moving from confrontation to dialogue and from tension to relaxation. On the international scenario, the Chinese leader felt that the two countries should work together for establishment of the new international political and economic order.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman. Mr Wu Xueqian apprised the president of the recent developments and the latest situation in that country. He admired the progress made by India during the last 3 decades.

Spokesman on Colombo Peace Committee Meeting

BK1210161989 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1529 GMT 12 Oct 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Sri Lanka on 11-10-89"—ISI headline]

[Text] In reply to a question about the peace committee, a spokesman said that this is a body set-up by Sri Lankan Government. As the joint communique says, the Sri Lankan Government informed us of their intention to set-up a peace committee and we had welcomed it. They had also expressed full confidence about their ability to bring the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] into committee. Apparently, the LTTE has not so far agreed to join committee. The LTTE has never in the past agreed to sit together with other Tamils to discuss amity and evolve a common approach to problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka. Their refusal, therefore, has not come as much of a surprise. Their statements about their willingness to join the democratic process and their promises not to attack other Tamils were welcomed. However, their continuing violations of cessation of hostilities speaks for itself. An observer group has recorded 34 such violations by the LTTE. It shows that such protestations need to be taken with a pinch of salt.

In reply to another question about the LTTE demanding disbanding of the CVF [Citizens Volunteer Force], the spokesman said that the question of disbanding of CVF which is a new demand that the LTTE has made is again no surprise. At each stage they have added new conditions. First they said devolution. When it did not work out, they said withdrawal of troops. Now they say disbanding of the CVF. Thisattitude of pre-conditions, or excuses to provide a justification for not joining the democratic process, has to be seen in light of what I have said earlier, that the LTTE has never in the past agreed to sit together with other Tamils to discuss amity and evolve a common approach to problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka. We are not surprised with this new demand of the LTTE.

In reply to another question about violations by the LTTE, the spokesman said that we have informed the Sri Lankan Government that in accordance with the mechanism provided in the joint communique, if these violations continue unabated, then the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will be forced to take action that they are empowered to take under the joint communique. If the IPKF is attacked, they will certainly retaliate.

In reply to another question about the postponement of the peace committee meeting, the spokesman said that the postponement of the meeting of the peace committee is in a sense a technical breach of provisions of the joint communique. It is essentially the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government to get the peace committee going and the question of safety and security is the responsibility of the security coordination group.

Spokesman Denies Diplomat Expelled From Kuwait

BK1210153689 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1432 GMT 12 Oct 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Kuwait on 11-10-89"—ISI headline]

[Text] In reply to a question about press reports on the alleged deportation of a diplomat serving in the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, the spokesman said that this particular officer left kuwait on 18th June, 1989 and came here on 19th June, 1989. The press report, however, says that the incident took place some time in August 1989, which is two months after he left Kuwait. The officer left Kuwait after serving his full 3-year tenure in Kuwait and a point worthy of note is that the protocol department of the Kuwaiti Foreign Office has strongly denied that it has ever made any allegation against this diplomat, or any other Indian diplomat. They have further said that "neither of the two countries has ever sought the deportation of any diplomat from the other country. The relations which bind the Republic of India and the State of Kuwait are firm and strong."

Simultaneously, the Embassy of India in Kuwait has issued a clarification that "the Kuwaiti authorities had never had any occasion to register any complaint about the officer mentioned above, let alone declaring him persona non grata. In fact never in the history of the Indian Embassy (?in) Kuwait has a member of the mission been declared persona non grata by the Kuwaiti authorities."

We have every reason to doubt the authenticity of the source on which the story is based as well as the motivation behind the publication of this report which is malicious, totally baseless and seeks to malign an officer who is no longer in that mission. The fact is that it has no basis at all as has been stated by host government.

New Afghan Ambassador Presents Credentials

BK1210095089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12 (AFP)—Ahmad Sarwar, a career diplomat and former head of the Afghan mission in Britain, has been appointed Afghanistan's ambassador to India, diplomats said Thursday.

Mr Sarwar replaces 'Abdul Samad Azhar, who has been named ambassador to Yugoslavia after two-and-a-half years in New Delhi.

Mr Sarwar presented his credentials to president Ramaswamy Venkataraman Wednesday and pledged to strengthen ties between Kabul and New Delhi, Asian diplomats said.

Mr Sarwar, in a message to foreign counterparts here Thursday, also promised to work closely to strenghthen "personal and political relations" between his government and friendly powers, the diplomats added.

The Indian Government recognises the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

Agreement To Open 'Offshore Bank' With Mauritius

BK1310093689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] India and Mauritius have agreed to set up an offshore bank with a capital of U.S. $10 million. An agreement to this effect was signed by the representatives of the State Bank of India and the State Commercial Bank of Mauritius in Port Louis. The two banks will have 49 percent shares each with 2 percent shares taken in by the State Investment Corporation of Mauritius.

IAEA Safeguards To Apply to French Nuclear Fuel

BK1210091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] India has signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, for the application of safeguards of nuclear materials to be supplied by France. The agreement paves the way for shipment of natural uranium pellets from France to India to fuel the Rajasthan nuclear power station. The Indian ambassador to Austria, Mr Sinai, and the IAEA director general, Dr Hans Blix, signed the agreement in Vienna yesterday.

Extension of President's Rule Results in Walkout

BK1210124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Karnataka for another 6 months from the 21st of this month. The government resolutions to this effect were adopted by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha today. Replying to the discussion in the Rajya Sabha, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said the government also wants early elections in the state as demanded by most of the members.

Expressing disappointment over the extension of the president's rule, most of the opposition members staged a walkout. [passage omitted]

Further on Reaction to Extension

BK1210160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The president's rule in Punjab and Karnataka has been extended for another 6 months. In the case of Karnataka, the extension will be from the 21st of this month, while for Punjab it will be from the 11th of next month.

Replying to the discussions in the Rajya Sabha on Karnataka, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that the government also wants early elections in the state as demanded by most of the members. Justifying the imposition of president's rule on the 21st of April last, he said the development of the state had come to a standstill during the Janata and Janata Dal governments time. He regretted that the opposition members have not spoken about the achievements made during the governor's rule.

Expressing disappointment over the extension of the president's rule, most of the opposition members staged a walkout.

In the Lok Sabha, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, while piloting the resolution, said once the decision on the Lok Sabha polls is taken, the question of holding assembly elections in the state will also be considered.

While the resolution on extension of president's rule in Punjab received almost unanimous support in the Lok Sabha, the opposition members in the Rajya Sabha protested against it and staged a walkout before it was put to vote.

Replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha, Mr P. Chidambaram said as things stand now Lok Sabha elections in the state would be held along with the rest of the country. As for the assembly elections, the minister said the government is keeping its mind open.

In the Rajya Sabha, Mr Buta Singh reiterated the government's determination to maintain unity and integrity of the country at all costs and continue the fight against terrorism.

Paper Supports Modernization of Indian Navy

BK1010103289 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 89 p 13

[Editorial: "Boost to Navy"]

[Text] With a 7000-kilometre long coastline to guard and 3.2 million sq. kilometres of the exclusive economic zone to protect from the covetous eyes of envious neighbours, the Indian Navy has necessarily to remain in shape. This is possible only if the Navy keeps modernising its fleet constantly either through outright purchases or thorugh technology transfers which are not easy to obtain. The Indian Navy has opted for both and even gone in for the third, that is, leasing a nuclear submarine from the

Soviet Union. The launching of the first indigenously made submarine, Shalki, on Saturday is the result of our Navy's determination not to depend too heavily on outright purchases but to patiently pursue the goal of self-reliance. Shalki in that sense is fruition of the German technology transfer wedded to Indian naval engineering skills. The West German shipping firm, HDW, which has supplied two submarines to the Navy on an outright purchase basis, is also providing the knowhow to the Mazagaon Dock Ltd to build two submarines indigenously. Shalki is the first of these. India's current submarine fleet of 17 will not be adequate to defend our coastline as eight subs of the Foxtrot class are being phased out. The Soviet built n-submarine will not make much difference since it cannot be expected to be everpresent all along the long coastline.

While maritime powers had long recognised the importance of the submarine fleet in the control of the seas, the political leadership in India shied away from scouting for submarine purchases on the fatuous plea that submarines signify offensive postures and cannot be called a "defensive" arm of the navy. The political perception changed only after the Chinese debacle and the two wars India fought with Pakistan. The latter still remains India's principal adversary on sea as well as in the air. Pakistan has acquired six submarines, more than adequate for its size; but what is worrying naval experts here is that some of the Pak subs are to be fitted with deadly US Harpoon missiles. The all-round expansion of the Indian naval fleet is precisely to match the Pakistan Navy's modernisation programme, and also to safeguard our vital economic interests in the sea, most notably the Bombay High oil drilling operations. The Navy is leaving no stone unturned to get the latest, be it from the French (new aircraft carrier) or the Soviets, willing to offer new type of submarines.

Commentary Hails Launch of Indigenous Submarine

BK0910120389 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Oct 89

[U.B. Chitarappu commentary entitled: "Launching of 'Shalki', India's First Indigenously Built Submarine"]

[Text] The launching of the "Shalki", India's first indigenously built submarine at the Mazagaon Docks, Bombay, recently is an event of considerable significance in the context of the defense preparedness and self-reliance of the country. The "Shalki" is a conventional submarine for use in the role of detecting and attacking other submarines. This type of submarine is often referred to as an SSK and loosely described as a submarine-submarine killer, though the acronym is not intended.

Being a conventional vessel, the "Shalki" is propelled by diesel engines. The "Shalki" and its sister to follow will be built with indigenous expertise. The significance of "Shalki's" launching lies in the fact that submarine building is a very specialized branch of shipbuilding. With today's achievement, India joins a select band of nations that are capable of building their own submarines. The complexity of submarine building lies in the character of a submarine. To put it simplistically, a submarine in its design and building has no room for any errors. The task of building a hull that can operate at a great depth under water with a dedicated band of personnel on board who run the [words indistinct] gadgets and machines that take the submarine to a specific depth, maneuver under water, surface to the top when required, and fire the lethal torpedoes, assumes sharp criticality. The fact that the state-owned Mazagaon Docks has been able to master the technology required for building such hauls for underwater use is therefore commendable.

Some of the special features of the submarine include the treatment of steel to withstand the intense water pressure that is exerted on the hull when submerged, welding techniques and material data different from those used on surface vessels, besides the shop testing of the machinery that is fitted inside.

Before going into the larger implications of "Shalki's" launch for self-reliance, a brief word about submarines may be in order. Submarines represent the silent dimension of the silent service and their role is becoming increasingly important in naval tactics and strategy. As a matter of fact, as far as the superpower navies are concerned, some naval experts opine that the missile-firing nuclear submarine or the SSBN has replaced the battleship and the aircraft carrier as a capital ship of this decade. However, in a strictly tactical sense, the submarine ensures the denial of the use of the sea to an adversary and is thus called an instrument of sea denial as opposed to sea control which is obtained by larger surface ships. The technical distinctions apart, suffice it to say that a submarine capability is an absolute imperative for a maritime nation with a capable navy. This is more than relevant in India's case, as the first Indian submarine was inducted in December 1967.

The intangible part of the "Shalki's" launch lies in the relationship between self-reliance in defense and the nonaligned path that India has chosen. To be truly nonaligned, India must be able to achieve a meaningful degree of self-reliance in the defense fabric of the country, and here the naval experience has been quite encouraging. Soon after India attained independence and the blueprint for the Navy was drawn up, it was realized that there could be no viable naval growth unless the country acquired an adequate shipbuilding capability. As it happens, India had the reputation of being the world's best shipbuilder in the 18th and 19th centuries. Few people are aware that the ships that helped consolidate the British Empire were built in the Bombay dockyard. A shrewd colonial policy ensured that native shipbuilding skills were stiffled. Obviously, the resurgence of Indian shipbuilding was possible only during post 1947 era. In these 4 decades plus, the infrastructure for warship building was laid in the state-owned defense yards with Mazagaon Docks at Bombay improving in certain respects to be the lead yard. It may

be recalled that it was in Bombay that the first Leander Class frigate, the "INS [Indian Naval Ship] Nilgiri", was built and later the first indigenously designed and built guided missile frigate, the "INS Godavari." Now Mazagaon Docks has established its ability to handle submarines, moving toward attaining greater and greater self-reliance steadily with multiplying confidence.

Court Verdict on Disputed Shrine To Be Enforced

BK1210150689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The government has expressed its firm commitment to enforce the court verdict on the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid [a shrine in Uttar Pradesh state claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue. It has made it clear that no one will be allowed to change the status quo and to violate the law. The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, assured the Lok Sabha today that the government will do everything possible to protect the secular fabric of the country and maintain communal harmony. He was briefly intervening in an inconclusive discussion on the communal situation in some parts of the country.

Iran

President Appoints Rohani Security Adviser

LD1210174489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Presidential decree—read by announcer]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hasan Rohani as his adviser on national security issues and as secretary to the national Security Supreme Council [shura-e 'ali-e amniyat-e melli]. The text of the president's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dr Hasan Rohani.

On the basis of Article 176 of the Constitution, and in view of our experiences, knowledge, and capability, Your Excellency is appointed to the post of presidential adviser on national security issues and secretary to the Supreme Security Council. It is expected that you should implement the preliminary stages in the establishment of this important foundation, which was stipulated in the Constitution as a means of safeguarding national interests, the Islamic revolution, its territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, with much speed and diligence. This is in order to prepare the groundwork for the execution of the destinymaking duties which are a responsibility of this council, which is the arm of the honorable leadership, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces. I beseech God Almighty to grant Your Excellency success.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Dated] 12 October 1989

Kho'iniha Appointed Head of Research Center

LD1210180689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi Kho'iniha as president of the Center for Strategic Studies. The text of the decree is as following:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi Kho'iniha, on the basis of Article 134 of the Constitution and Clauses 17 and 18 of the Law on Duties, Limits, and Boundaries of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Obligations and with regard to the importance of the role of research in the future life of the revolution and the society, as well as your scientific, social, political, and practical expertise, Your Excellency is appointed president of the Center for Strategic Studies to perform the following obligations under the supervision of the president:

1. Establish an appropriate center for the country's strategic studies attracting worthy and competent researchers and a center for documents and information needed for research.
2. Apply the present resources and forces engaged in governmental establishments as well as engage freelance foreign and domestic researchers and establish connections with various world centers that could be used in this respect.
3. Support various organs and foundations of the country using the results of the studies directly, and the publication of materials which are appropriate for distribution.
4. Acquire the cooperation and support of government establishments and official foundations for the research center.

It is expected that a broad vision will be applied in the selection of colleagues and that it will be done on the basis of their merits and competence.

I wish God Almighty to give you and your colleagues full success.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Dated] 12 October 1989

Larijani Views U.S. Aid to Iraq, Saudi 'Dilemma'

LD1210201189 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—The latest on the world propaganda circuit is the Iraqi regime's so-called active

role in organizing and building the North Yemenese Army, an Iranian official said in an afternoon daily today.

In his article in "ETTELA'AT", advisor to the foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Larijani, dwelt on the Iraqi officers' role of strengthening pro-Ba'thist elements in the North Yemenese Armed Forces, which he said has alarmed Saudi Arabia whose memory is still fresh about the border conflict with North Yemen. No wonder a frightened Riyadh has complained to Washington about developments across its southern borders, he added.

The Ba'thist regime's foreign adventures are not a new thing, he said, in view of Baghdad's idea of subjugating the Arab world. "An idea," he added "which the Iraqi regime pursues at any cost including war, peace, assassinations, propaganda and even bullying."

"And in order to materialize its vision, the regime ruling Iraq banks on two key elements in its foreign policy: cooperating with Zionism, and trying to don the mantle of the gendarme of the Persian Gulf," said Larijani.

It is for this very reason, he noted that Ba'thist Baghdad is backing the Maronite Christian minority in Lebanon, and in this regard is helped by the Jewish lobby in Washington, which uses every pressure lever to further the Iraqi regime's unholy cause.

"Americans have been insisting on the advantages of their policy of making Iraq the gendarme of the region. And this includes holding firm the Iraqi rein (and perhaps changing the regime in future?), exerting pressure on Iran, saveguarding the flimsy regimes of the region... but, as is evident, the Americans place their interests over and above everything else even Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity, no matter whichever 'prince' stays in power," he said.

Over the past few months, pointed Larijani, Riyadh has channeled billions of dollars as economic aid to Baghdad, although in view of Iraq's astronomical foreign loans and a myriad of internal problems, the Saudi aid is nothing, which he said means "Saudi Arabia should pay much more, since it has a neighbour called North Yemen."

"This is not the first time Iraq has resorted to blackmail nor is Saudi Arabia its first and only prey, and in view of this we can easily visualize the region's future and the emerging U.S. gendarme more clearly than before."

The article further said, "Iraq can never dominate over a powerful Islamic Iran, a fact which is clear to all wise people in the world." Therefore, it added, the only victims of the U.S. gendarme are the Persian Gulf Arab states.

What a helpless situation the Saudis have found themselves in, he said, and if they perchance think that the only way out of the trap is to have friendly ties with Islamic Iran, their masters in London and Washington will never allow them to do so.

"It shows where dependence and servitude leads and the dangerous consequences of being trapped in a dilemma," concluded Larijani.

Khamene'i Receives Lebanon's Grand Mufti

LD1210125889 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution today called on Muslims across the world to consolidate their unity and solidarity and foil enemy plots to sow discord among them.

In a meeting with visiting grand mufti of Sidon, Lebanon, Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said the Saudi regime, the U.S., the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime and other arrogant powers were quite helpless in the face of Islam and the Hizbollah ummah.

"The fact that Lebanon, even after passage of several years, is still a thorn in the side of the U.S. indicates the weakness of this superpower.

"If the enemy had not been weak it could have solved the issue of Lebanon to its liking," Ayatollah Khamane'i said.

The Lebanese grand mufti in reply reaffirmed allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i and thanked the Islamic Republic for its stand on the Lebanese Islamic resistance against the Zionist regime and the domination of Maronite minority over Lebanon.

Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari was also present at the meeting.

TEHRAN TIMES Discusses Lebanese Solution

NC1210154989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Solving Lebanese Problem None Too Easy"]

[Text] Solving the Lebanese tangle through negotiations is proving intractable to the Arab committee now at the job in al-Ta'if. Progress has been tardy indeed and this is mainly because the 33 Christian and 30 Moslem representatives of Lebanese parliamentarians meeting there seem to be polarized into religious camps. The explosive issue has still to be tackled and settled.

A segment of the representatives support the Syrian presence in Lebanon, while others have suggested Syrian withdrawal from West Beirut to the eastern al-Biqa' valley over a two-year period concurrent with talks on reforms to the Lebanese constitution as a way out.

Now even as talks proceeded in al-Ta'if, two of the most well known political figures in Lebanon Nabih Birri head of the Amal movement and Walid Junblatt leader of the Druze Moslems are in Tehran at a conference representing the Islamic and national groups of Lebanon—a number of other prominent Shiite and Sunni Lebanese

'Ulema are also at the conference. The very fact that they have gathered here is an obvious sign of there disgruntlement with what is going on at al-Ta'if.

Even though the various representative groups meeting at al-Ta'if have varying views it is clear that the nationalist and Islamic groups within Lebanon—those leaders are now here—are strategically in agreement on what is best for that nation.

Without prejudging too hastily, it would be best to wait and see what the al-Ta'if conference decides and how it looks at the implementation of a Mubarak "peace plan" for Israel which is linked in a sense to the Lebanese question. The Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has been putting his entire weight behind the al-Ta'if negotiations trying to convince the representatives that the Arab committee proposals would be the best way out of the Lebanese imbroglio.

But whatever is being done at al-Ta'if, it has to take into consideration two aspects that cannot in any event be ignored: security for Syria under any plan alongside security for Lebanon, and a guarantee that the rights of the Moslems in Lebanon who are the majority will be taken into account. To concede small gains to the Moslems in the hope of disarming them militarily and politically will be a ploy bound to fail at al-Ta'if and perpetuate the bloodshed in Lebanon.

Lebanon it must be remembered can never be allowed to transform itself into a safe haven for the Israelis and neither can it be allowed to become a land in which the Maronites continue to wield political supremacy. Any political reforms should be at a level that ensures that the presidency and the armed forces in Lebanon are not controlled by the Maronites.

Before discussions can proceed any further on Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, the more vital issues of constitutional reform should be taken into account and settled first. It is obvious that when such changes are made a reality Israel will have no place in the Lebanese scenario and will have to quit. It is only then that Syria will consider a long-term plan to leave.

Dailies Term Al-Ta'if Meeting 'Failure'

LD1210113989 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—The two Engish dailies Thursday commented on the meeting of Muslim and Christian parliamentarians in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, stating that they have failed to reach agreement on the future political structure of Lebanon.

TEHRAN TIMES said, "Saudi King Fahd's hopes of persuading Christian warlord Michel 'Awn to cooperate have failed to improve matters."

The lack of a desire, it added, on the part of the Maronite members of parliament at the talks to recognize the rights of the Muslim majority in Lebanon is "another reason for its failure."

The paper also noted, "the representatives from both sides belong to the old guard of politicians with no powers to act on their own and make their own decisions, which a newer and younger generation of Lebanese youth might have better done."

The daily's editorial further said that the recent presence of the two leading Lebanese Muslim leaders Nabih Birri and Walid Jumblatt in Tehran, "was in effect an expression of their lack of confidence at what was taking place at al-Ta'if and their calculation of a predictable failure to solve the Lebanese issue at al-Ta'if."

The other English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL referred to Washington's five-point plan to break the Mideast deadlock and said "the initiative comes at a time that a 12-day search for peace by Lebanese parliamentarians... has reached nowhere."

"Washington wants the Lebanese people to accept all the approvals of the al-Ta'if conference but in view of the opposition voiced by the Lebanese people, the White House has suspended the confab and instead issued instructions for renewed fighting in the country.

"Washington wants to torture the Lebanese people and keep them in a state of homelessness and wander through its military tactics—occasional military operations," it voiced the conviction.

"But the Lebanese nation has proved that it can put the U.S. in real deadlock" the paper said stressing "retreat against oppressors will result in nothing but captivity and slavery—the same that has befallen Yasir 'Arafat and his men because of their repeated retreats."

"The people of Lebanon and Palestine are aware that what the U.S., Israel and Egypt have in mind will only result in their further humiliation not freedom, and that all their schemes are doomed to failure," concluded KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Editorial Urges 'Tougher' UN Line Toward Iraq

NC1210155189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "UN Chief Needs To Take Tougher Line"]

[Text] In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on October 5 Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of Iraq, said that it is Iran who has prevented the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598. In his speech before the 159-member Assembly 'Aziz asked for unconditional release of prisoners of war from both sides. He further said that the reconstruction of the Iraqi cities of al-Faw and Basra, which are within the range of Iranian artillery, is a clear demonstration of Iraq's determination in seeking peace.

The Iraqi foreign minister was busy accusing Iran for ignoring and looking askance at the need for peace in the region just at the time when in a report to the United Nations the secretary general clearly held Iraq responsible for obstructing implementation of Resolution 598 by refusing to accept the four-point plan proposed by the secretary general as a means to implement the resolution. Iraq has even refused to carry out the first article of the resolution which calls for the withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognized borders.

It is crystal clear that the reconstruction of Basra without taking into account the advantages the Arvand River will confer is a useless task. Iraq has a small offshore border and to blockade it is a rather simple task, as it was the case during the eight-year war. To export its oil, which is the lifeline of the Iraqi economy and which to it is badly needed for the reconstruction of the war torn country, Iraq needs the sea lanes of the Persian Gulf. Without them Iraq will be forced to pay a high transit bill for transporting its oil via the pipe lines that cross neighboring countries. And that is not the only payment. Iraq will be held to political ransom by these countries as well.

The main reason for Iraqi stubbornness, however, and its refusal to return to international boundaries and its rebuffing of the 1975 Algiers Accords is the special political situation inside the Iraqi regime. It is very painful, and politically very dangerous for Saddam Husayn to confess that he started a costly and destructive war without getting anything in return for it. In this regard the Security Council of the U.N. by being silent has actually encouraged Iraq to continue its occupation of Iranian territory.

Before acceptance of the resolution by Iran, the secretary general through his repeated visits to the region promised quick implementation of the resolution. Today, a big chunk of the political credit due to the secretary general, currently in his second term, depends on the establishment of peace between Iraq and Iran. He knows very well that a fragile ceasefire between the two countries can never be counted a big achievement. Establishment of a lasting peace requires more political courage on the part of the secretary general. In his last report he took a positive step but it was hardly enough. He should have told the United Nations that the majority of the Security Council members, who passed the resolution unanimously, do not favor the implementation of the resolution because of their political interests.

Daily Criticizes Jordan's 'Subservience' to U.S.

LD1210122589 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—One of the characteristics of the lackey regimes, especially those subservient to the U.S., is their competition with one another to prove the extent of their subserviency, wrote the morning daily ABRAR Thursday.

In an editorial entitled "Characteristics of the U.S.-Lackey Regimes", the daily noted that these regimes resort to various methods to show their subserviency. The Saudi regime massacres hajj pilgrims and Baghdad rulers commit robbery but King Husayn of Jordan with a long record in this regard, does not confine himself to a specific method, the daily commented.

When King Husayn massacred 20,000 Palestinians, he was no longer afraid of expressing his inclination towards the usurper Israeli regime, the editorial said.

Recently, the Jordanian foreign minister has reiterated his country's support for any diplomatic move which could help establish peace with the usurper regime adding that to this end Jordan would support the Moroccan King Hassan's 10-point plan or any other similar proposal, said the commentary.

In a similar gesture, the same minister said his country believed that the existing Islamic Republic system in Iran was more dangerous than the military expedition of the Zionist regime to Lebanon.

He also supported Baghdad's arms supply for the Lebanese military government of Michel 'Awn through Jordan and openly announced that since the outbreak of Iraq-Iran war his country had put Aqabah port at the disposal of the Baghdad regime.

In its competition for subserviency, the Jordanian regime does not hesitate making such statements. However, it should bear in mind that Jordanian Muslim people would not remain silent forever and would protest as they did a few months ago, the commentary said.

The daily stressed that now the Islamic revolution has penetrated deep into the hearts of every single Muslim throughout the world. Muslims in Lebanon have found their way and would not let lackeys such as Jordanian king, Baghdad ruler or Saudi regime to trample upon their rights.

The article concluded by saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran shoulders the sensitive responsibility of supporting Muslim nations against aggressions and expansionist tendencies of imperialist powers. Because, the daily stressed, common Islamic interests among Muslims are far more stronger than nationalist sentiments.

Commentator Assesses Seminar on Afghanistan

NC1210155589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 89 p 4

[Commentary by Akhundzadeh Basti: "A Comprehensive and Subtle Approach Necessary"]

[Text] There are a host of issues and problems before the participants to te second seminar on Afghanistan. The presence of prominent experts and distinguished personalities in Tehran avails the best opportunity in exchanging views and asserting the recent developments in Afghanistan.

The participants are to deal with more than twenty subjects that are on the agenda. The infrastructure of the future regime and the composition of the future government are among the most important subjects to be discussed in the seminar.

Afghanistan is an Islamic country by virtue of its traditions, beliefs, and history. Islam was and is the cohesive force that combines different tribes and groups irrespective of their geographic location.

One of the most important targets of the occupation forces was to de-Islamize the society and detach it from the rest of the Islamic world. This could not be achieved and the Soviet forces were miserably defeated. They were defeated militarily but not politically.

The fact is that the presence of the alien forces created adequate motives and persuasions the absence of which would not. [sentence as published] The vacuum was filled in indirectly by other alien forces and this time surprisingly in the name of religion. This new invention furthermore added to the complication and some leaders of Mujahidin directly or indirectly served the same purpose for which they fought the occupation forces. The ultimate result was the protraction and continuation of the status quo.

For the Mujahidin to get rid of the present unfortunate situation, the status quo must change. It is the undeniable right of the Afghan people to choose a government of their own choice. The past experience proved that in the absence of a comprehensive approach nothing would change. Disunity and division will only protract the status quo and serve no purpose. The leaders of the Mujahidin must think seriously. They have a great responsibility to discharge. Time is not in favor of the Mujahidin. They must keep aside their differences and make independent decisions.

A serious and genius effort by their side would make things move in the right direction. They have the experience of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. One can only attain a certain degree of perfection only when things are in the right place and direction.

Although the Afghanistan problem has an international dimension, its immediate ill-effects were on the countries in the region. So the idea of conducting a regional conference is logical and worthy. A majority of the Afghan Mujahidin accepted the idea of a regional conference. Some of them however, wanted to know the details and the conditions of such a conference. This could be worked out once there is a clear consensus among all important proponents of the problem.

France's Dumas Calls For Bilateral Talks

LD1210162789 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in a message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati called for bilateral talks on international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Dumas, referring to his meeting with Velayati during the 44th United Nations General Assembly session in New York, stressed the need for exchange of views on international and other issues.

The message was submitted to the Foreign Ministry by the French charge d'affaires to Tehran today.

Habibi Views Zambian Prime Minister's Visit

LD1210123989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Dear listeners! As we said earlier, at the end of the Zambian prime minister's official visit to our country, Mr Habibi, the first deputy president, assessed the outcome of the visit of the Zambian prime minister and his accompanying delegation in an interview with our correspondent.

[Begin Habibi recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As our dear people are aware, the Zambian prime minister was the guest of the Islamic Republic of Iran for a few days. During the course of that visit, our intention was to review issues and topics that can effectively serve to expand Iranian-Zambian relations.

During the visit, means for mutual cooperation were reviewed. As a result, the two sides reached agreements on industrial, commercial, and mining affairs, while making projections about plans for the future. It was agreed that, with the consent of the Zambian side, we should send some experts to that country to review the means for developing technical works, as well as utilizing some materials that they possess in accordance with our country's economic interests.

We will export industrial goods to that country, and possibly some raw material, such as oil, as well. From that country, we probably will import copper, zinc, and lead. These were some general points about the mutual relations in the fields of commerce and economy. Of course, we must wait for the future months, when our experts will go to that country to ponder the means for such cooperation. [end recording]

Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh Interviewed

NC1010210089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Sep 89 pp 5, 10

["Exclusive interview" with Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in Tehran on 21 September]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] How much exploration for new crude oil deposits [makhzan] have you been involved in over the past 4 years?

[Aqazadeh] First of all, we should not forget that during the past 4 years the policy of war which had been

adopted against us actually was a war of oil. During the past 4 years, Iraq's operations centered on bombing our economic resources, especially our oil resources. But thanks to the steadfastness of our petroleum industry workers, our oil exports during these years did not stop, and our refineries kept operating. [passage omitted]

During this 4-year period, the large 'Asaluyeh gas field in Bushehr was discovered. Once the well was sunk three layers deep, we fortunately saw signs of the existence of sweet gas [gaz-e shirin]. We also intend to sink other wells there in order to determine the quantity of gas available. Because this is a big field, one well cannot indicate its entire potential. However, even this single well was enough to determine that the field is a large one. I hope that by the second part of next year [beginning 21 March 1990], the second well will be sunk so that we can determine the exact volume of gas in this field, which is 314 km deep and between 8 to 15 km wide. Thus, you can see that it will be among the world's largest fields.

During this time, we discovered two light oil fields in Kheyrabad and Mansurabad. The pressure in these fields is favorable, and I think that we can complete exploration and start extraction within the next 5 years.

In addition to the above, work on expanding the Khangiran field and exploiting the Gonbadli field (which is a joint resource with the Soviet Union) were completed. Also, new exploratory wells have been sunk in the Mand field; these revealed both a layer of gas and one of very heavy oil. This is one of our large projects, and exploration is to start once its potential is determined. Also, a large seismological operation took place in the Persian Gulf last year. This led to the discovery of the Northern Pars field north of the Qatar reserve. Currently, we are sinking the first well in this deposit so that we can determine the type of gas in it and its exact volume. The Northern Pars field, or the deposit in the northern section of the Qatar reserve, is one of the world's largest fields. Part of it is in Qatari waters, and part in our waters. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] How many active exploratory oil rigs do we have, and how many more do you intend to add?

[Aqazadeh] The oil companies now have 20 active exploratory rigs, and three rigs are being reconstructed. These will become active in the next 3 or 4 months. Also, we plan to buy 5 new rigs, and a team from our country is conducting talks on this. We cannot name the country before the deal is finalized. Instead of the present 20 rigs, over the next 5 years there will be 32, 30 of which will be inland and 2 offshore.

[RESALAT] Since 1982 there has always been concern over reductions in the production life of wells. What steps has the Petroleum Ministry taken about this?

[Aqazadeh] First, I should correct you by saying that the concern emerged not in 1982, but long before the revolution. Gas injection is necessary in oil exploration. By gas injection we can actually increase oil production by 17 billion barrels, and this will mean an astronomical income. This will increase the country's resources and will elevate our production capability. It will also maintain the pressure in the fields at a good level. Therefore, gas injection is one of the ministry's activities. In the Gachsaran, Marun, Karenj-e Pars, and Haft Gel fields, as well as a number of other small fields, gas should be injected.

Gas injection in the Gachsaran field started in 1977. One billion cubic feet of gas are injected into it daily. From this field alone, 4 billion barrels of oil have been taken. [passage omitted]

Our second largest field is the Marun field, which is the most important injection field. This is among the world's exceptional injection projects. This project was completed during the war, and it was also bombed. After the acceptance of the resolution, reconstruction of this plant resumed. Fortunately, early this year, the first phase of the project became operational when Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president, visited. Currently, 500-600 million cubic feet of gas are injected into this field daily. During the 5-year plan, we will try to change the area where gas was injected. Three billion barrels of oil have been taken from the Marun field. The other field is the Haft Gel field, where gas injection started in 1976 and continues. The oil taken from this field totals 110 million barrels.

Karnej-e Pars is among the other major injection projects. Part of the equipment for this field had been purchased previously, but the project had not yet begun. We started work 2 and ½ years ago. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] What programs do you have concerning relations with Persian Gulf countries and Iran's joint oil resources on the continental shelf in view of Iraq's relations with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf?

[Aqazadeh] Four countries in the Persian Gulf have more than 60 percent of the world's oil resources. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Iran generate the pulse of world oil. The Persian Gulf is, therefore, an extremely important area, and it also will continue to be a strategic and political area in the next century. Thus, any political understanding in the Persian Gulf can have serious effects on oil. As for our cooperation, we do not have any problems with the Persian Gulf countries as far as production and joint resources are concerned. Currently, each country carries out its activities according to its own rules and regulations. There are no conflicts, and we do not have any problems in the Persian Gulf.

[RESALAT] What programs with the Soviet Union have been implemented involving the Khangiran gas field?

[Aqazadeh] The Khangiran field is an independent resource and has nothing to do with the Soviet Union. We have worked sufficiently and satisfactorily to expand it. The output of our wells in this area is high, and the Khangiran refinery is now operational. There is only one field, Gonbadli, which is joint and it has been operating

for a few years now. There is no argument between us. The project that we have is to connect the Neka' pipeline to Rasht, which will be connected to the cross-country network. This will allow us to tap Khangiran's potential better. In other words, after meeting all the needs of the region, we will feed the surplus gas into the main pipeline.

[RESALAT] What is your opinion of the Asian gas pipeline in view of the relative saturation in European markets by the year 2000?

[Aqazadeh] Our country should make the necessary investments for gas exports by the year 2000, and gas should be exported to all parts of the world market. This can be done through a gas pipeline or through the transformation of natural gas into liquefied natural gas (LNG). This is one of the investments which our country must make in the future because gas demands will increase as of the year 2000. We will be able to become one of the major natural gas exporters in the world. We have extremely large untapped fields, especially in the Persian Gulf. This will ensure a healthy income for the country. Therefore we should export gas not only to Asia, but to other parts of the world, and we should make the necessary investments to do so. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] Could you please comment on partnerships?

[Aqazadeh] We are partners with Bank Melli in the Arak Petrochemical project now. In other words, 49 percent of the investment has been made by the bank, and 51 percent by the Petrochemical Company.

[RESALAT] Will partnerships be limited only banks and other parts of the public sector, or will there be partnerships with the private sector too?

[Aqazadeh] We think that we can offer some small units to the people in the form of shares. We should use the people's investments, especially in the petrochemical industry. In view of the high profits available in this industry and its reliable production (because we have all raw materials ourselves and so are not dependent on imports), the petrochemical industry will be among the very good fields for investment. However, the advantage of the petrochemical industry is in that its products will increase the possibiity for the people's investment in other related industries. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] How long will the rationing of oil products (gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, and other products) continue? If you have any good news about this, please inform the people.

[Aqazadeh] In the first 5 months of this year, our situation was favorable because the Tehran refinery started operation and its output was good. All the country's refineries operated satisfactorily. As you know, we did not spend more than $45-50 million to reconstruct the Abadan refinery, and we did everything ourselves. However, we only had $90 million in income from its surplus production. Therefore, as far as oil products are concerned, our situation is good. We are not importing any gasoline now, and all the country's needs are supplied through domestic production. We do not have any problems with ending rationing either, and this is a topic which is on the government's agenda. God willing, the government will study this and state its views.

We have good gas oil resources too. We have no limitations. I hope that this year the people will not face any problems with gas oil for their domestic consumption.

As for kerosene, we are not quite ready to end its rationing this year. However, we have very good resources, and during the first 5 months of the current year we tried to hand out more ration cards in the colder areas of the country, especially in places where there is a problem in transporting kerosene. If we do not have an unexpectedly cold winter, I hope that the people will not face the problems that they faced in past years or, at least, that they will have a sufficient quantity of kerosene.

As for LNG, we had $100 million in imports in past years. Fortunately, during the current year, not only are we not importing, but we also have a surplus. Of course, when the first Iran-Japan petrochemical complex becomes operational, we will be among the world's major exporters. The quantity of LNG to be produced during the first phase of the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex's operation will be 1 million tonnes and worth more than $150 million. Therefore, there is a sufficient amount of LNG production.

Here I should point to an extremely important issue. We are facing many problems in transportation. If we did not face these problems, we would have abundant supplies. The problem in supplying oil products is not that we do not have sufficient oil products, but that we have transportation problems. Drivers need tires, spare parts, and other things. There are very few oil tankers in the country, and they belong to the people and are not at the government's disposal. When a driver sees that transportation is not profitable, he will not use his tanker. Of course, we cannot force him to do so. I officially announce that we do not have a problem with the amount of oil products. Our problem is that these products are not transported to some areas. Now matter how much encouragement we give, there is no inclination to do this. The Petroleum Ministry's problem at this juncture is how to transport fuel. If transportation is not improved this winter, we may not be able to supply fuel to people in some parts of the country.

[RESALAT] Can you please specify when oil rationing will end?

[Aqazadeh] We have a good supply of oil products now. Probably by the beginning of next year we will not have any problems with kerosene, God willing. In other words, we will not be rationing this product next year.

[RESALAT] Once the rationing of oil products, such as gasoline, ends—you said that this is on the government's agenda—will there be a change in prices?

[Aqazadeh] There are two prices for gasoline now. Gasoline is sold at 30 and 60 rials. The decision that we will adopt should not place a new burden on the people's shoulders; especially, as far as taxis are concerned, we should not create any financial burdens at all because if we do, then taxi rates will have to go up. The government should reach a favorable price—not more, but less than what it is now. We should, in principle, significantly reduce the 60 rial price. But this is one of the duties of the government which needs careful consideration. We are sure that the government's goal is not only to prevent an increase in the price but to work toward reducing the price to a just level. We want to gather all the coupons and to allow free distribution.

Petrochemical Complex To Be Finished in 2-3 Years

LD1210125589 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said here Thursday that all units of the petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni Port, south of Iran, will become operational within the next two or three years, yielding one billion dollars worth of products per year.

Speaking to reporters, Aqazadeh said Iran will receive 130 billion Japanese yen from Mitsui Company in compensation for its withdrawal from the suspended Iran-Japan petrochemical complex project.

He added that a number of contracts had been signed with foreign partners including the Dutch 'Lamas' Company for the operation of the project and talks were underway with other firms especially those from South Korea for the installation of the units.

Referring to domestic consumption of oil products, the minister noted that the country was no longer in need of importing gasoline and liquid gas but still imported 15 million liters of gas oil and eight million liters of kerosene per day.

Aqazadeh said about 100 million dollars worth of fuel oil produced by Abadan refinery in the first half of the current Iranian year (ending March 20, 1990), had been exported, adding that the total reconstruction cost of the first phase of the refinery amounted to only 50 million dollars.

The cabinet ministers in their Wednesday session rejected any increase in the price of oil products and decided that these products be distributed at their current rates, the minister said.

Japanese Envoy Interviewed on Cooperation

NC1210170089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Sep 89 p 3

[Interview with unnamed Japanese ambassador to Tehran by unidentified correspondent, date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In your view, what is the most important factor blocking the implementation of Resolution 598, and what role could Japan play in the establishment of peace?

[Ambassador] As you know, 2 years ago Japan was one of the UN Security Council members and played a very active role in passing Resolution 598. Since then it has declared its overt support for the efforts of the UN secretary general to establish peace in the region. We shall be most delighted if we can play an active role in the establishment and stabilization of peace in the region.

In my opinion, the fundamental problem in the Iran-Iraq talks is the lack of trust between the two rival. Therefore, the most important move would be the elimination of the current atmosphere of hostility and the creation of one of mutual trust. As regards Japan's role, we have informed the Iranian Government on various occasions that Japan is prepared to assist in any way necessary to expedite the attainment of peace. We would be happy if the Iranian Government were to ask us to take any steps that would help toward this end.

[Correspondent] Would the retreat of Iraqi forces from Iranian soil not be a favorable step toward the creation of trust?

[Ambassador] I would have cited the issue of the exchange of POW's as an example of a move which would prove effective in promoting trust between the two sides. However, if the withdrawal of Iraqi forces can inspire such trust in Iran, it would be a welcome step and it should be taken.

[Correspondent] There is no mention of direct talks as such in Resolution 598. In your opinion, by insisting on this, is Iraq not trying to minimize the role of the UN secretary general? Is it trying to extract concessions from Iran by holding part of its territory as a trump card?

[Ambassador] Because Japan is not directly involved in the talks and the peace trend in the implementation of the resolution, I cannot give an answer to this question. However, Japan's policy is based on providing every possible assistance in support of the decisions of Mr Perez de Cuellar on the implementation of Resolution 598 and the establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq. Japan totally supports the UN secretary general.

[Correspondent] Why is Japan opposed to the reconstruction of the petrochemical complex and to what extent will it pay compensation?

[Ambassador] The Japanese Government is not involved in this "reconstruction of the petrochemical complex" at all. This is a joint project between two private companies in Iran and Japan, and the government has nothing to do with it. The Iranian and Japanese companies are holding talks on terminating this project because in the opinion of the Japanese company, it would not be very lucrative to complete it based on the considerable damagemto the complex caused by Iraqi attacks. It was decided, therefore, that the Japanese companies should give up the project and at present they are involved in negotiating the details. We have been informed that considerable progress has been made in this regard in the past few weeks and we hope the two parties will come to an agreement on the matter.

[Correspondent] What is the volume of trade between the two countries? What does it include and what is the average purchase of oil by Japan?

[Ambassador] The volume of our commercial and economic exchanges with Iran totaled $200 billion in the past year, which is the lowest that it has been in the past few years; however, it is on the increase in the current year. If I were to go into details I would say that our imports totaled $164.1 billion. It is not the Japanese Government, however, that is the buyer of Iranian oil and products; these transactions are carried out by private Japanese companies.

Japanese companies purchase oil valued at $1.82 billion, which comprises 95 percent of total Japanese imports from Iran. Japan's exports to Iran amount to $808 million. I would be very happy if these exchanges were to increase. In 1989, however, a noticeable increase can be seen as compared to last year.

[Correspondent] Will Japan ever move toward arms manufacture and, if so, what would be the level of its expenditure in this regard?

[Ambassador] In answer to your question, I will read an excerpt from Article 5 of our Constitution. [passage omitted] This law is supported by the majority of our country's citizens. We have no desire to become a military power and to maintain an armed force that would pose a threat to neighboring countries. [passage omitted].

[Correspondent] In Iran, it is believed that Japanese policy toward Iran is under the influence of U.S. policy. What is your opinion?

[Ambassador] Neither the political nor the economic policy of Japan toward Iran is in any way influenced by the United States. The United States is one of Japan's allies and is the only country with which we have a defense agreement. As far as political issues are concerned, I think it is possible that U.S. policy toward Iran may be influenced by Japan's policy toward Iran. However, our policy toward Iran is entirely different from our policy toward the United States. It is obvious that we define our own policy, but it is possible that our policy could affect that of the United States toward Iran.

[Correspondent] Have you had any offers from the Iranian Government relating to Japan's participation in Iran's reconstruction?

[Ambassador] My country, whether the government or private companies, is most desirous of cooperating with Iran. They are willing to enter into collaboration with your government in Iran's economic reconstruction. We have mentionec our willingness in our talks with your officials. It is obvious that the Iranian Government also wishes to have Japan's cooperation in this (reconstruction). I should mention that Mr Adeli, the former Iranian ambassador to Japan, held active consultations with Japanese companies regarding economic reconstrction in Iran. Our extensive presence in Tehran's international trade fair is also evidence of our interest in and desire for the expansion of economic and trade relations with Iran.

[Correspondent] Are there any plans for visits by high-level Japanese officials, such as the foreign minister, to Iran?

[Ambassador] Yes. We are expecting a group of Japanese officials headed by the deputy director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry to visit Iran next month. During their visit to Tehran these officials will hold talks regarding possible technical cooperation in the future. The members of the delegation will comprise representatives of the Foreign Ministry and Japan's International Cooperation Agency. We hope that during their stay in Iran they will be able to meet Iranian Government officials and hold negotiations on an extensive program for future cooperation.

As you are aware, the political s.tuation in Japan is not completely stable at the moment and it is possible that there will be Diet elections before the end of the year. For this reason, it is difficult for the ministers to make any plans for visits to foreign countries.

Paper Reports on Khalkhali Remarks in Majlis

PM1210141489 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 4 Oct 89 pp 24, 30

[Pre-agenda speech by Khalkhali, deputy from Qom, at the 27 September Majlis session]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The second pre-agenda speaker was Sadeq Khalkhali, deputy for Qom. He first commented on the crimes of the Al Sa'ud in Mecca and said that to make the first step to establish ties, recognizing the Saudis, would be like ignoring the blood of the martyrs and the imam's will. He addcd: Even if we do not go to the hajj for another 50 years, we shall never take the first step in establishing ties with the Al Sa'ud.

He then talked about the remarks comparing Roger Cooper with Kurosh Fuladi and said: Fuladi has been subjected to torture in British jails since he was 16 years

old. One of his hands is crippled, he has developed back trouble, and he has gone blind in one eye. He arrived at the airport looking like an old man. They also prevented his mother and his brother from visiting him in the British jail. The meeting between the wife [as published] of a renowned spy and a high-ranking judicial official is not right or proper.

He added: If it was right to free Roger Cooper, the imam would have made a decision on him, even though there was a lot of pressure at that time. So we cannot free someone that the imam did not free. Roger Cooper must spend his entire sentence in prison.

He then quoted a sentence from Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni with regard to not dismissing revolutionaries from responsible positions. He said: The hand that works toward getting rid of revolutionary people and friends of the imam in this country is the hand of the United States and it must be cut off at any price. He added: We do not want to cause dissent on the pretext of creating unity, by saying that such and such a person has spoken against the leadership. Do not say these things. The leadership is above all this and we will defend the leadership's title with our blood and our dignity. [passage omitted]

Majlis Deputies Debate Powers, Yazdi's Actions

NC1210153789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 89 pp 1, 15

[D. Montazeri report]

[Text] Tehran—The Islamic Consultative Assembly or the Majlis was the scene of heated debate on powers of the legislative body yesterday and on Tuesday.

In yesterday's open session of the Majlis presided over by Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi in a pre-agenda speech Hojjat ol-Eslam Assadollah Bayat said, "No other branches of the government but the legislature has the right to determine the policy (of the government) and strategy of the entire (ruling) system of the country."

He meant that the Majlis is the only body which has the right to frame the policy of the government and the priorities of the entire ruling system of the country.

Bayat, deputy speaker and head of the Judiciary Commission of the Majlis was commenting on the letter written by 110 members of the Parliament who called Justice Minister Esma'il Shushtari to the Majlis to give an explanation of the meeting of the Judiciary head with a family member of spy Roger Cooper.

Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi received Lili Cooper in audience on September 25. Lili is the wife of Cooper's brother Paul. Roger is in prison. He was arrested in 1985 on charges of spying against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On September 27, 110 members of the Majlis wrote a letter to the minister of justice and called him to the Majlis for an explanation on the meeting. The Majlis deputies raised an objection that Ayatollah Yazdi should have not met with a family member "of a seasoned spy such as Roger Cooper."

There was constitutional discussion among the Majlis deputies. Some believe that there is no provision in the constitution for the Majlis to call an explanation from the judiciary which is independent.

Bayat speaking in yesterday's open session said, "The Majlis has every right to interfere into each and every affair relating to the country."

Quoting late Imam Khomeyni he said, "The Imam once said that no body has a right to put pressure on the Majlis."

Bayat supported the letter of 110 members whose names have not been made public so far and said, "It (to call the explanation) is the duty of the Majlis deputies."

In support of his belief Bayat quoted Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution Article 78 which says, "the Islamic Assembly is empowered to investigate and inquire into each and every affair relating to the country." "We have taken oath that we will defend the constitution," Bayat said.

"We'll resist any violation of the constitution," Bayat vowed.

Another Majlis Deputy Ahmad Zamaniyan from Nahavand, Hamadan Province in his preagenda speech on Tuesday supported the move of Ayatollah Yazdi on meeting with Cooper's family member.

He praised Ayatollah Yazdi and said, "The Leader approves of the ayatollah."

Zamaniyan said the move of Ayatollah Yazdi was based on humanitarian grounds and he compared the judicial system of the Islamic Republic with those that existed in the West.

Commenting on the manner of presenting the letter of the 110 deputies he said, "It (the letter) has been put forward in the Majlis in a manner against what was recommended by the late Imam."

He said that the Imam recommended that before a controversial question is put before the Majlis it should be referred to a commission first and then it should be forwarded to the open session of the Majlis.

The issue is still under discussion in the Majlis. According to the constitution, response to the 110 members of parliament should be given in 10 days time, on Saturday. There is no Saturday session of the Majlis. Now it is expected that a response from the justice minister will be given to the Majlis on Sunday.

*** Editorial on Need To Refrain From Placing Blame**

46400101 Tehran ETTELA AT in Persian 20 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "The Government, Problems, and Roots"]

[Text] Now that we are on the threshold of auspicious and effective changes, it is fair that we not, as is usual and customary, seek out and target a specific official or officials and totally place the blame on them for every mistake, loss, dishonesty, and shortage.

Of course, the Majlis, within the framework of its duties, considers itself bound to evaluate the past in order to make new decisions and new choices, and the accounting of the Majlis is earnest. However, it is sometimes observed that in other milieus and places, other things are being said and the boundary of fairness is being crossed. Of course, it is clear that crossing that boundary is in all places and at all times indecent.

Today, when the true roots and reasons for the problems and difficulties of the past—aside from factional, class, and ideological friendships and grudges—are being studied and discussed, we see that the "main" problems pertain to these types of causes and factors:

—The lengthy imposed war and its extensive and all-encompassing character in various forms and stages: the war of the front, the war of the cities, the rocket war, the chemical war, the psychological and propaganda war, and their like.

—The destructive role of a single-base economy, and the severe blow inflicted on the country's economy by the drastic and sudden drop in the price of oil from 30 to 6 dollars per barrel, along with the extensive and comprehensive effects and factors resulting from it.

—The legacy remaining from the era of Satan and 50 years of planning and policy-making by the Pahlavi dynasty, including structuring on the basis of the objectives and programs of the heads of that regime in the country's administrative and organizational structure and, generally, the economic, social, and administrative tissue remaining from that era, and then the extensive and comprehensive effects and events pertaining to it.

—The number of decision-making centers and the increase in the number of organizations after the victory of the revolution.

—Population growth, population distribution, and emigrants.

—The lack of plans, and also beliefs contradictory to the planning and the plannable.

—The differences of opinions and the views of religious jurisprudence and philosophy among the officials, administrators, legislators, and judges, and the lack of stability in setting courses and policies and the rapid and numerous changes in this regard.

—The lack of comprehensive experience at the management level of the country.

—And....

When we look at this series of factors and causes, we see clearly that the basic part of them originated and took form in an area beyond the management and will of this regime's officials. A part also has been linked indirectly and "with one memory and relative" to the causes and factors of the first part. Another part even though pertaining collectively in every instance to the mistakes of this regime, whether it seems avoidable or not, also was not and is not in any event such that responsibility for it can be placed exclusively and directly on the shoulders of this government and the present cabinet, still ready and willing, and be done with.

Even the lack of planning, in the words of the chairman of the Majlis' Planning and Budget Committee in a press interview, basically and chiefly resulted from the fact that "under the conditions of war, sources of revenue are in danger of being destroyed and, on the other hand, the expenses of the war cannot be estimated precisely. Therefore, the two basic parameters for drawing up a budget, namely resources and expenses, are subject to change." According to him, this was one of the most important reasons for the lack of planning in the first decade of the revolution.

Even if we sometimes have made mistakes regarding the so-called "leftists" and "rightists" or, in effect, in establishing the limits and method of operation and cooperation of the three sectors—government, private, and mutual assistance—we have traveled the road of ambiguity and equivocation and also the road of extravagance and waste, or if we have not acted in a desirable manner and we have been extravagant and wasteful regarding foreign trade, nationalized industries, agricultural lands, food requisitions, and the like, it is not fair for us to come today and turn everybody's share into a single share and place it en masse and in a single stroke around the neck of the government and the cabinet of Engineer Musavi and obtain peace of mind! Of course, that would be the easiest thing to do, and therefore its usefulness and advantage are undeniable!

Finance Minister Explains Economic Policy

LD1210150689 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA—Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh Tuesday explained the current economic situation of the country and elaborated on government policies for creating a balanced economy.

In his address on the first day of reconstruction seminar he said the country's economy lacks balance, as is evident by improper methods of employment and increasing prices over the past few years.

Over the recent year, he said the government borrowed from abroad in order to overcome economic problems, however this policy resulted in gradual increase in the cash flow, thus disturbing the equation between supply and demand.

The Iranian industry is capable of producing goods on a par with those made abroad, said Nurbakhsh, and the reason why they have so far failed to compete with foreign producers is the higher price of Iranian goods, he added.

On future policies of the government he said, priority has been given to investment in irrigation, agriculture, gas and petrochemical resources as well as mining and industrial sectors. "The government will do its best for a balanced budget and will avoid any deficit," Nurbakhsh stressed.

He said the Islamic Republic will expand production and activate factories and plants not working to full capacity. It has been decided to reduce the use of bank resources to compensate for the budget deficit, and from now onwards the private sector will be encouraged to join in the procurement of needed supplies, he added.

On the new foreign currency regulations, the minister said the government will arrange for foreign currency for most public organisations including those affiliated to the Commerce Ministry and banks.

He predicted that the current inflated rate of foreign currency on the black market would gradually decline resulting in a desirable and balanced economy.

Another speaker at the seminar yesterday was the head of the Consultative Council for Reconstruction Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorban 'Ali Dorri Najafabadi [name as received] drew attention to the proper use of specialized Iranian manpower inside and outside the country during reconstruction efforts. He elsewhere noted that simultaneous implementation of large projects would not bear desirable results. "Several economic projects were implemented during the pre and post revolution eras which did not have suitable results," Najafabadi added.

Some 1,000 Iranian and foreign experts are participating in the three-day seminar which was inaugurated Tuesday by Presidential Advisor for Political Affairs Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

TEHRAN TIMES on Health Ministers Meeting

NC1210160389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by the City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—The five-day meeting of the 36th session of the Regional Committee of the Eastern Mediterranean concluded here yesterday with a resolution.

In a press conference Dr. Iraj Fazel, the minister of health and medical education and Dr Hoseyn Jazayeri, World Health Organization's (WHO) regional director elaborated on the outcome of the session attended by 20 regional health ministers.

The organization will provide the eastern Mediterranean's 330 million people with hygienic drinking water by the year 2000. It will also take measures to provide health and medical care for 95 percent of the mothers inhabiting the region and to curtail infant mortality rate not allowing it to exceed 50 in thousands by the year 1995. Infant mortality rate in Iran is 45 in thousand at present and will be reduced to 30 in thousand by the year 2000, Dr Fazel said.

Dr Jazayeri while calling the session "a success" said the topic of paramount significance discussed in the session was the risk posed by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and various ways to combat it in this region. Viral hepatitis, polio, immunization activities, surveillance, investigation and control of tuberculosis, as well as healthy life styles, regional program on emergency preparedness and WHO's public image within the framework of "health for all" program, were among other topics discussed by the committee, he said.

Nepal

King Birendra Departs for State Visit to Denmark

BK1310074489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 13 Oct 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 13 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal left here Friday [13 October] for Paris on his way to Denmark for a five-day state visit at the invitation of Danish Queen Margarethe the Second, the state-run Radio Nepal announced. Crown Prince Dipendra, currently studying at Eton College in London, will join the king and Queen Aishwarya in Copenhagen.

The royal couple were accompanied by Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, King Birendra's younger sister Princess Shobha Shahi and her consort Kumar Mohan Bahadur Shahi as well as other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the royal palace. Four prominent industrialists and businessmen including the presidents of Federation of Nepal Industry and Commerce and the Nepal Chamber of Commerce were also included in the royal entourage.

The king will spend four days in Paris on an informal visit during which he will meet with French President Francois Mitterrand on Saturday morning at Elysee Palace.

Before leaving, King Birendra said in message to the nation: "Nepal has uninterrupted, close and cordial relations with the Kingdom of Denmark which have grown in recent years by common commitment to various programmes of mutual cooperation."

The Harvard- and Tokyo-educated monarch added: "Nepal wishes to have friendly relations with all the peace-loving countries of the world," noting that it enjoyed diplomatic ties "with as many as 99 countries."

Pakistan

Bhutto on Need for Broad-Based Afghan Government

BK1210154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has stressed the need for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan if there is to be a political settlement of the issue. Speaking to newsmen at Peshawar airport today, she said that Pakistan's position on the issue is clear and is in the national and political interest. She said that the world may consider the Afghanistan problem to have been solved with the Soviet pullout; for Pakistan, however, the issue will remain unresolved until the Afghan refugees safely return to their homes.

Further on Bhutto Comments

BK1210163889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has emphasized the need for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen at Peshawar airport this evening before her departure after a day's visit, she said Pakistan's stand on the issue is clear and in the political and national interest. She said the Afghanistan issue could be considered as solved for the world with the withdrawal of Soviet forces, but for Pakistan it continues to stand still until the return of the uprooted Afghan refugees to their homeland.

The prime minister said a broad-based government should be established in that country, elections held, and power handed over to the people's representatives. She said the Afghan interim government is a suitable structure for the purpose.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran are not ready to recognize the hard-liners of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan]. If the Soviet Union really wanted political settlement, it should force Dr Najib to step down. She said Pakistan had held talks with the Soviet Union for political settlement of the issue.

Answering a question about the role of former King Zahir Shah in the solution of the Afghanistan problem, the prime minister said: We consider it reasonable and positive if the former king openly comes in favor of the Afghan interim government.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said Afghanistan is our neighboring country and we do not want to interfere in that country. She said: We have no favorites. We do not want to impose any solution on the people of Afghanistan. We want that the people of every country should have the right to decide their destiny on their own.

The prime minister did not agree with the suggestion that there is any tension between the center and the provinces. Actually, the tension is between the parties. She said tension is not a good thing and we do not want it.

About arrest of G.M. Syed [the Sind nationalist leader], she said the present government has provided freedom, but it is subject to the law. No one should think that there is no law in the country. For any one who talks against the country, the law will take its course.

Hopes for 'Amicable Solution'

BK1310015489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1910 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 12 (AFP)—Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged Moscow on Thursday [12 October] to force the present Kabul regime and "hardliners" of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to quit.

Ms. Bhutto reiterated her government's desire to reach an "amicable solution" to the Afghan conflict, but said "the removal of the present Kabul regime was imperative for the solution" of the issue. She said that "none of the Afghan people, whether living in Pakistan or Iran as refugees or waging war against the Kabul government front, were ready to accept the hardliners of the PDPA."

"If the Soviet Union is serious in the political solution of the Afghan issue, it should force (Afghan President) Najibullah and the hardliners of PDPA to quit and an interim broad-based government be formed," the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted Ms. Bhutto as saying.

She was quoted as saying that the Afghan Interim Government (AIG), which was formed seven months ago by the Pakistan-based Afghan Muslim guerrillas opposing the Soviet-backed Kabul regime, was a "genuine government." Pakistan and the United States, the main supporters of the mujahidin, have not recognized the AIG. Only Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan and Malaysia have so recognized it.

"The (Afghan) issue may have been settled for the world community, but it exists for Pakistan," Ms. Bhutto told reporters at Peshawar Airport. There are more than three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and she said she wanted a political solution leading to a "conducive atmosphere wherein the refugees could return honourably, and restore the independent and non-aligned character of Afghanistan."

Ms. Bhutto said she had no differences with Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Army's chief of staff on the Afghan issue. "All were thinking alike," she said.

Earlier, Ms. Bhutto met here with the president of AIG, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, at a function arranged by Army's Frontier Corps. The mujahidin leader informed Ms. Bhutto about his visit last week to Tehran for an international seminar on Afghanistan. Mr. Mojaddedi

said that his talks with Iranian Government and Afghan guerrillas based there were "satisfactory and will bring positive result."

Eight Iran-based Shiite parties have refrained from joining the AIG, complaining of a lack of representation in the Sunni-dominated Consultative Council which chose this interim government. The AIG is based in this northwestern town.

On Monday, Mr. Ishaq Khan urged the Soviet Union to revise its Afghan policy, which he called a "stumbling block" in the formation of a broad-based government for Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa To Lift Emergency If Violence Stops

BK1210150489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Premadasa, has said that the government is prepared to lift the emergency in the country if there is a stoppage of violence by militant groups, including the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]. Addressing the second formal meeting of the All-Party Conference [APC] in Colombo this morning, Mr Premadasa also offered to suspend the Prevention of Terrorism Act and to grant amnesty and redress in legitimate grievances. Ninety representatives from 22 political parties attended the APC which has been convened to find ways to restore peace in the island nation.

'Subversives' Set Government Buildings on Fire

BK1310110189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1015 GMT 13 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Within the last forty eight hours, subversives have set on fire sixty government buildings, which include tea and rubber factories, sub-post offices, gramasevaka [rural welfare] offices and rural banks throughout the country, states a government communique issued today.

It further states that two tea factories at Ruwanwella and Deraniyagala and two rubber factories at Yatiyantota and Deraniyagala, a telephone exchange at Ruwanwella, and a Bank of Ceylon branch at Pitigala were set on fire by subversives.

Two personnel managers from the Tyre Corporation and Milkfoods (CWE) Ltd., were abducted by unknown persons and later their dead bodies were found with gun shot wounds.

Deposits Containing Thorium, Uranium Found

BK1310112189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1012 GMT 13 Oct 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 13 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Rich deposits of monazite, a rare phosphate mineral containing thorium and uranium have been discovered on the south western coast of Sri Lanka, by a team of researchers of the National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA). Thorium and uranium are used for atomic energy and the manufacture of a number of chemical products.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Fisheries told LANKAPUVATH that the monazite deposits found by the NARA scientists were estimated to be worth over 270 million U.S. dollars. He said that at least two per cent of the sea sand along the coasts of Kalutara and Beruwela, 50-60 kilometres south of Colombo, contain monazite.